

2020  
2024

# Parks and Recreation Plan

CITY OF GRANDVILLE, MI



**2020  
2024** **Parks and  
Recreation Plan**  
CITY OF GRANDVILLE, MI

ADOPTED – January 13, 2020

Prepared by:



**MCKENNA**

235 E. Main Street, Suite 105  
Northville, MI 48167  
T: 248.596.0920  
F: 248.596.0930  
[www.mcka.com](http://www.mcka.com)





# Acknowledgments

## CITY COUNCIL

Steve Maas – Mayor  
Joshua Meringa  
Justin Noordhoek  
Andy Steenstra  
Tim Steenstra  
Paul Troost  
J.R. VanderWall

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Jack Bengtson  
Ray Cheydleur  
Jason Flanigan  
Karilyn Frederick  
Perri Hartwell  
Steve Maas  
Chris Sholl

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Courtney Acton – School Chairman  
Joyce Andriessen – Board 4th of July Chairman  
Tim Buck – City  
Erika Crenshaw – School  
Karilyn Frederick – Board Secretary  
Josh Meringa – City Council Representative  
Bob Persky – School Board Representative  
Sue Richards – Board Treasurer  
Zackary Sikkema – City  
Charlie Sundblad – Department of Public Works Representative, City Ex-Officio  
Lisa VanderLaan – School Ex-Officio  
Ben Weykamp – City Vice Chairman

## CITY STAFF

Ken Krombeen – City Manager  
Matt Butts – Assistant City Manager

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# Introduction



# Welcome

In January 2019, the City of Grandville initiated the development of a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan to create a vision for the future and guide decision-making for parks and recreation facilities. This plan is the result of the efforts of community leaders, staff, and residents over the past several months. This document's primary objective is to set forth the goals that are conceived by the community for recreation in the City, satisfying the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requirements for a Parks and Recreation Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a road map for parks and recreation decisions (including facilities and programming) made in the next five years, as well as projected future needs. The Plan includes all of the required elements of a Parks and Recreation Plan and therefore qualifies Grandville for funding through the MDNR. The process taken to prepare the Plan gives the City a better understanding of the needs and wants for parks, recreation, cultural facilities, and programming going forward.

# Community Description

This Parks and Recreation Plan encompasses the City of Grandville. The City is located south west of the City of Grand Rapids, along Interstate 196, in western Kent County. The City is approximately 7.27 square miles in area. In order to determine its Parks and Recreation needs, the City considered how many people will use recreation amenities, what program they will participate in, and what types of facilities they will need. We must understand these existing demographic conditions and past trends in order to appropriately anticipate and plan for the future needs of the community.

The following sections correspond to the demographic data gathered from the U.S. Census. The most recent data comes from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. The ACS is conducted every year and samples a percentage of the community on topics such as population, economics, housing, etc. The 5-years estimates for a given population are considered a reliable source as they represent 60 months of collected data for all geographic areas. However, in some specific cases, the data may contain inaccuracies due to sampling.

## POPULATION

Changes in the number of people residing in a community are an important indicator for community planning. Growing communities have different needs than do communities with stable or declining populations. The table below shows the relative populations of the City of Grandville and comparison communities, while the chart on the following page compares the population trends.

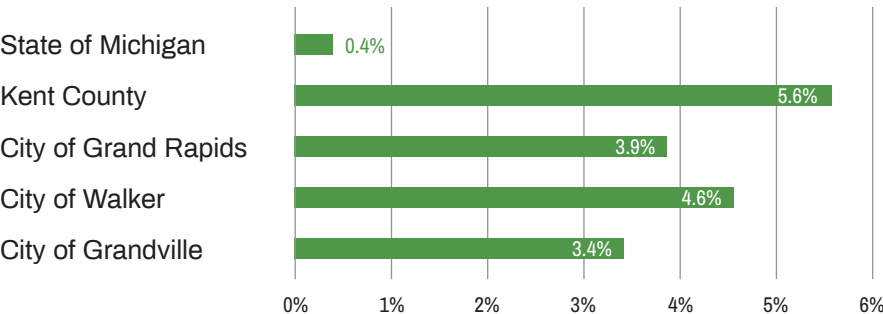
The population of the city and the surrounding communities all saw a population increase between the sample years. This mimics the State of Michigan's trend of slow population growth.

**Table 1: Population Comparison, 2010, 2017**

POPULATION	CITY OF GRANDVILLE	CITY OF WALKER	CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	KENT COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
2010	15,378	23,537	188,040	602,622	9,883,640
2017	15,902	24,618	195,355	636,376	9,925,568

Kent County experienced the largest population percentage change during the sample years with 5.6%. The City of Grandville saw the fourth highest percentage change with 3.4%, however this is significantly higher than the State's percentage of 0.4%.

**Figure 1: Population Percentage Change**



## HOUSEHOLDS

This section analyzes the number of households in the City of Grandville and surrounding comparison communities. Changes in the number of households in a community are an indication of changing demand for recreational activities.

Similar to population, the number of households in each of the communities experienced an increase during the sample years. The City of Grandville saw the largest percentage increase with 4.45%, but Kent County and the City of Walker were close behind at 4.26% and 4.07%, respectively. The City of Grand Rapids and the State of Michigan experienced a slower increase with 1.81% and 0.42%.

**Table 2: Household Comparison, 2010, 2017**

HOUSEHOLDS	CITY OF GRANDVILLE	CITY OF WALKER	CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	KENT COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
2010	5,982	9,684	72,126	227,239	3,872,508
2017	6,248	10,078	73,434	236,929	3,888,646

## AGE

The age of a community's population has very real implications for recreation planning, whether it is an increased or decreased need for children's recreation to serve the population under 18, or a need for amenities more attractive to retirees. To determine the overall age of a community both the median age of the population as well as the population by age group are provided.

The chart below compares the median ages (the mid-point where half the population is younger and half is older) of the City of Grandville and the comparison communities. Residents of the city are noticeably younger than those in the surrounding communities. A younger population likely means more children and a growing population going forward.

The City of Grandville was the only community of those selected to experience a decrease in median population age. However, the 2017 median age is right in line with the nearby City of Walker and Kent County overall. The City of Grand Rapids maintains a younger median age, while the State of Michigan has an older population.

**Table 3: Median Age Comparison, 2010, 2017**

MEDIAN AGE	CITY OF GRANDVILLE	CITY OF WALKER	CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	KENT COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
2010	36.3	34.6	30.8	34.4	38.9
2017	35.30	35.10	31.10	35.00	39.60



## POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

Age structure (analyzing which proportions of a municipality's population are in which stages of life) gives an insight into the age makeup of a community. To compare age structure, the population is divided into the following groupings:

- Under 5 (Pre School)
- 5 to 19 (School Aged)
- 20 to 44 (Family-Forming)
- 45 to 64 (Mature Families)
- Over 65 (Retirement)

The table below compares the age structure of the City of Grandville with that of Kent County. Persons in the Family-Forming age group are the most numerous in both the city and the county. Similar to age, this age group is more likely to mean more children and a growing population.

## MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Median income is the amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount.

Each of the selected areas experienced an increase in median household income between 2010 and 2017. The City of Grand Rapids experienced the largest increase (15.7%), but remains below Kent County and the City of Grandville. The City of Grandville has the second highest median income of the selected communities and closely follows Kent County with \$56,765.00.

**Table 4: Median Household Income Comparison, 2010, 2017**

	CITY OF GRANDVILLE	CITY OF WALKER	CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	KENT COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
2010	\$50,984.00	\$49,189.00	\$38,344.00	\$49,532.00	\$48,432.00
2017	\$56,765.00	\$55,781.00	\$44,369.00	\$57,302.00	\$52,668.00

## RACE

This section analyzes the composition of races in the City of Grandville and surrounding comparison communities. Changes in the racial makeup in a community are an indication of changing demand for recreational activities.

The chart below summarizes the major racial groups compared to those in Kent County. Whites make up the majority of the population in the city and the county. However, the racial makeup of the county is more diverse than the city with African Americans making up 9.7% of the population and Asian persons 2.9% as compared to the city's 1.7% and 1.5%, respectively.

**Table 5: Race, 2017**

RACE	WHITE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKAN NATIVE	ASIAN	NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER
City of Grandville	14,143	265	0	244	0
Kent County	511,125	61,686	2581	18,154	144



A large white number '2' is overlaid on the bottom left of the image. The background is a photograph of a park. In the foreground, a large, light-colored tree trunk stands prominently. To its right, another large tree with a darker trunk is visible. In the background, there is a grassy area with a picnic table, a wooden fence, and more trees. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

2



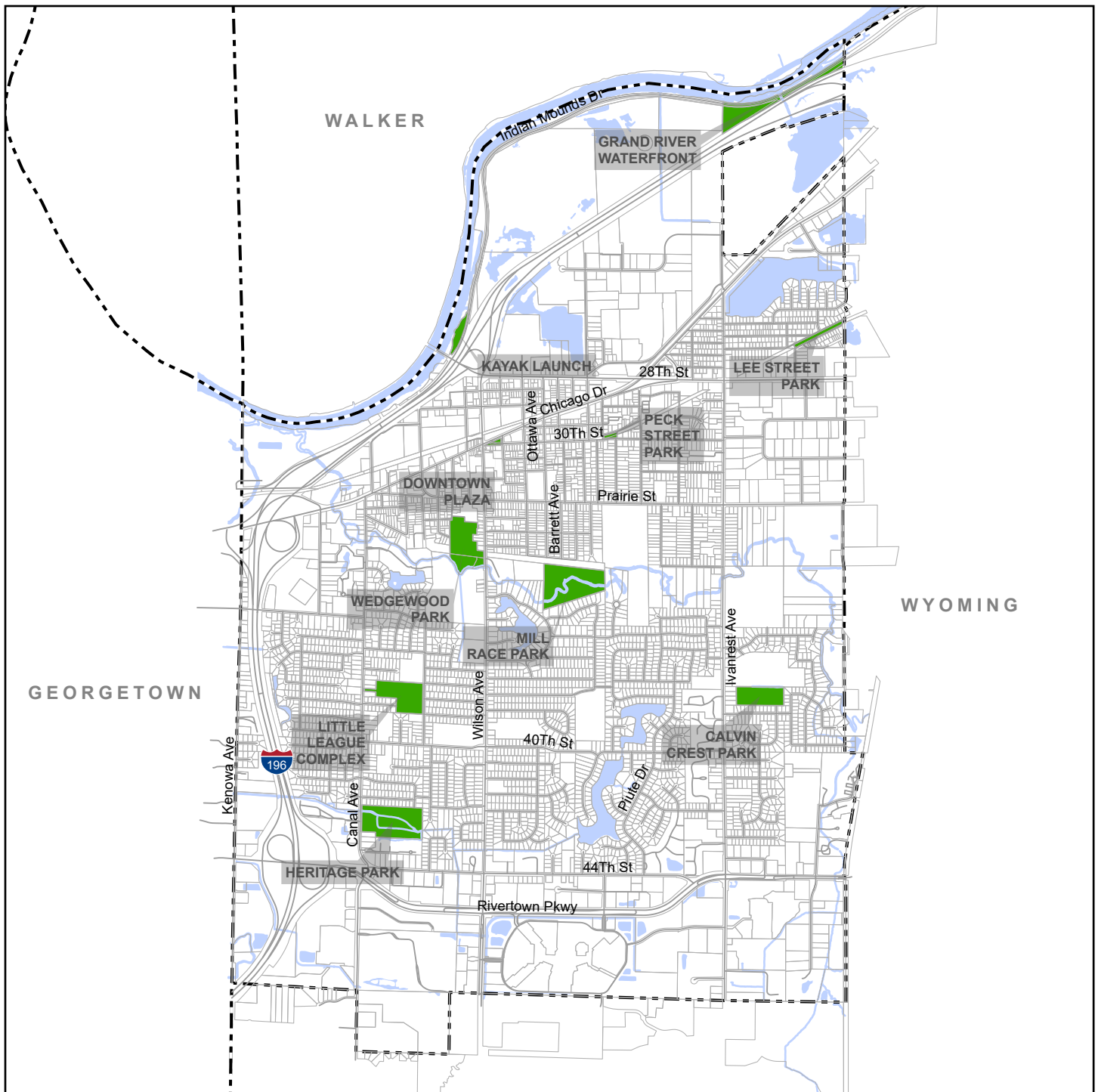
# **Parks Service Analysis**



# Parks Inventory

This plan focuses on the ten city-owned and operated parks and recreation facilities, covering 101.1 acres, or 0.16 square miles. This makes up 2% of the land area in the city. The ten parks included in this calculation are:

1. Wedgwood Park
2. Heritage Park
3. Calvin Crest Park
4. Lee Street Park
5. Mill Race Park
6. Peck Street Park
7. Little League Baseball Complex
8. Buck Creek Trail
9. Grand River Waterfront
10. Grand River Pathway



## MAP 1

# City Parks

City of Grandville, Kent County, MI

April 15, 2019

## LEGEND

- City Parks
- Parcels
- Municipal Boundaries
- Roads
- Rivers
- Water Bodies



Basemap Source: City of Grandville 2018,  
Michigan Center for Geographic Information,  
Version 17a.





# MDNR Parks Classification

In addition to an individual evaluation of each park, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources classification system is used to classify parks and recreation facilities based on the type of facility and expected usage. The MDNR acreage recommendations for the various classifications based on population size is discussed in a later section. The city-owned parks are classified into the following groups:

## MINI-PARKS

Mini-parks are small, specialized parks, usually less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini-park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. Mini-parks usually serves people within a radius of  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

Two of the ten city parks included in this plan are classified as mini parks. Lee Street Park and Peck Street Park are parks with limited amenities, mainly consisting of paved pathways, but serve as a shared recreation space for the surrounding neighborhoods.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that provide land for intensive recreation activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks serve a population up to 5,000 residents located within a one half- to one-mile radius.

The City hosts three neighborhood parks: Wedgwood Park, Heritage Park, and Calvin Crest Park. The majority of the City's active recreation facilities such as ball fields are located in these three parks. Each park is also located within a broader residential neighborhood and is accessible to the nearby residents.

## NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

Natural Resource Areas serve as preservation areas for significant natural resources, landscapes, open spaces, and buffering areas. Areas may vary in size depending on the availability of the resource.

The City of Grandville hosts three Natural Resource Areas: Mill Race Park, Grand River Waterfront, and the Grand River Pathway. These parks are given this classification due to the natural state of each park and the limited amenities available. While Natural Resource Areas are generally larger, these parks vary in size from two acres to 23 acres.

## LINEAR PARKS

Linear parks are developed for one or more modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and/or pleasure driving. Some linear parks include active play areas. Linear parks often link other parks or components of the recreation system, community facilities, commercial areas, and other focal points.

Buck Creek Trail is considered a Linear Park, or Greenway, as it serves as a connector for Wedgwood Park to Canal Avenue and other residential areas and community facilities. Buck Creek Trail also serves as the City's connection to the Kent Trail System, which serves greater Kent County

## SPORTS COMPLEX

Sports Complex areas consolidate heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites typically serving the community as a whole. Sports Complex's size is normally based on demand, but usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 – 80 acres being optimal.

There is one Sports Complex located in the City. The Little League Baseball Complex is primarily dedicated to providing baseball and softball facilities for programmed play. While other parks have complexes of sports facilities, such as the tennis courts located at Calvin Crest Park, Calvin Crest also provides other recreation amenities which allows it to serve a broader purpose for the community. The amenities offered at the Little League Baseball Complex supports the baseball and softball activities

# Overall Citywide Parks Service Analysis

## ACREAGE ANALYSIS

It is also essential to consider the type of parks, their location, and their distribution throughout the City. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas, it is important to closely consider where the residents in the City live. The MDNR establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to determine the areas in the community that are lacking easy access to parks and facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

- Mini/Neighborhood Parks 0.25 – 0.5 miles
- Natural Resource Area/Linear Park/Sports Complex 0.5 – 3.0 miles

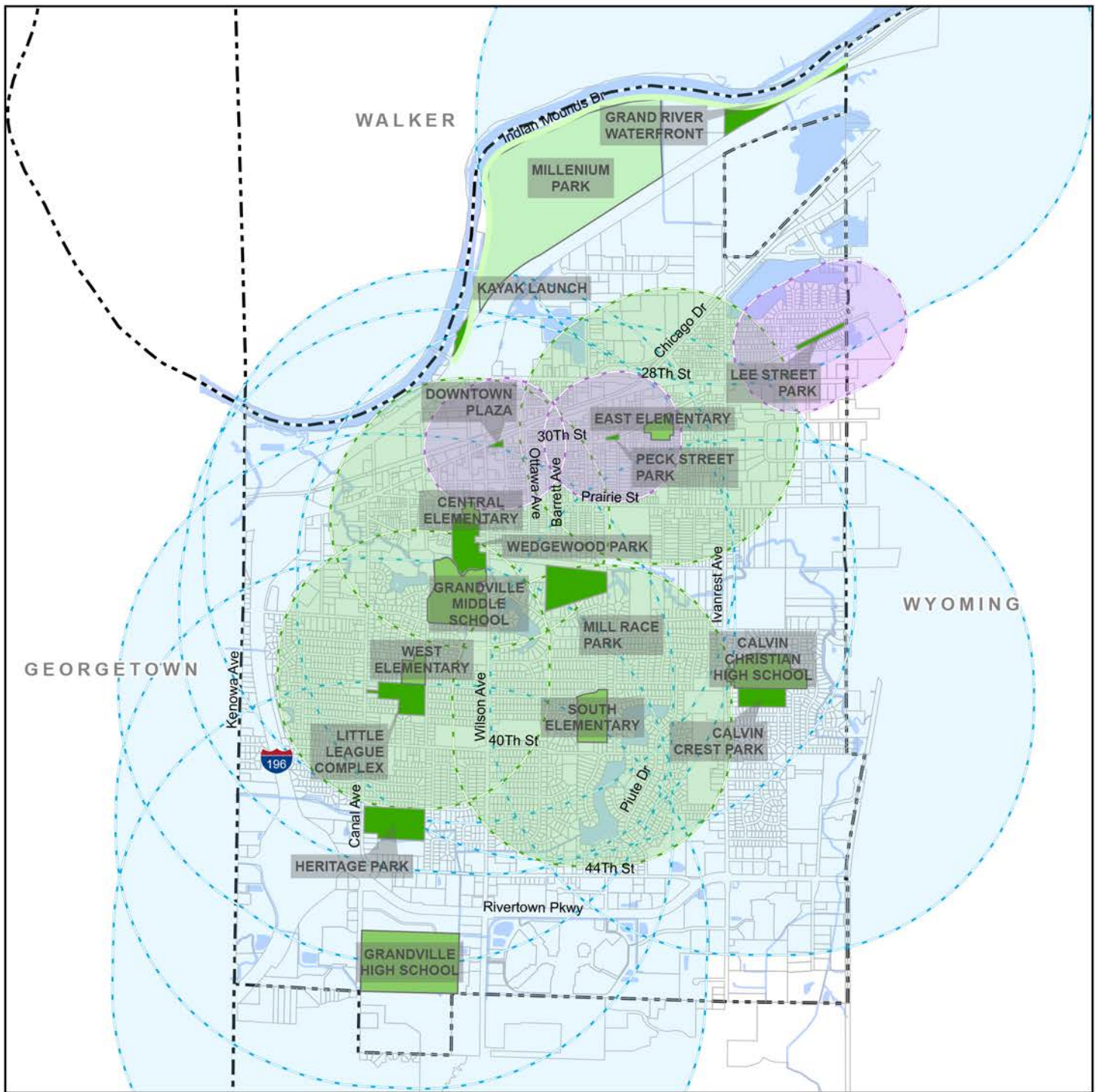
**Table 6: Grandville Park Land Acreage Analysis**

PARK CLASSIFICATION	NRPA GUIDELINE ACREAGE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS	GRANDVILLE RECOMMENDED ACREAGE	ALL PARKS ACTUAL ACREAGE IN CITY	SURPLUS/ DEFICIENCY
Mini Parks	0.25	3.98	3.0	- 0.98
Neighborhood Parks	2.0	31.80	42.0	+ 10.20
Community Parks	5.0	79.51	0	- 79.51
Natural Resource Area	Variable		41.0	+ 41.0
Regional Parks*	10.0	159.02	0	-159.02
Linear Parks	Variable		2.1	+ 2.1
Sports Complex	Variable		13	+ 13.0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>&gt; 15.25</b>	<b>&gt; 274.31</b>	<b>101.10</b>	<b>-173.21</b>

\* Due to Millenium Park across the river in Walker, there is no need for a regional park in Grandville

The table above evaluates Grandville's park acreage in comparison to national guidelines for communities throughout the State. However, the standards are general in nature and do not reflect the quality of the facilities, the character of the community or other local differences that affect community recreation facility needs. Thus, in evaluating the results, the actual conditions and trends present in the City must be taken into account.





# MAP 3 Parks Service Radii

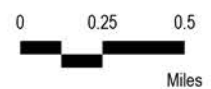
City of Grandville, Kent County, MI

March 28, 2019

### LEGEND

#### Labels

- 1-Mile Buffer
- Half-Mile Buffer
- Quarter-Mile Buffer
- Parcels
- Municipal Boundaries
- Rivers
- Water Bodies



Basemap Source: City of Grandville 2018,  
Michigan Center for Geographic Information,  
Version 17a.





## GRANDVILLE PARKS' AMENITIES AND FACILITIES

The tables below list ten commonly provided amenities and facilities and their location in the City parks as well as a comprehensive list of amenities available at each park. The City provides many opportunities for walk, running, and biking through the use of city trails. All of the parks provide at least some paved trails, while all of them offer either paved or unpaved trails. This is often a highly sought-after amenity. However, the city parks offer few opportunities for nature education, as it currently offers no official nature education programs through the parks.

**Table 7: Public Owned and/or Operated Recreation Facilities**

AMENITY	NUMBER	LOCATION(S)
Baseball/Softball Fields	3	Wedgwood Park, Calvin Crest Park, and Little League Baseball Complex
Basketball Courts	3	Heritage Park, Calvin Crest Park, and Lee Street Park
Soccer Field	1	Wedgwood Park
Tennis Courts	1	Calvin Crest Park
Volleyball Courts	2	Wedgwood Park and Heritage Park
Pavilions	3	Wedgwood Park, Heritage Park, and Calvin Crest Park
Playground Equipment	5	Wedgwood Park, Heritage Park, Calvin Crest Park, Lee Street Park, and Peck Street Park
Walking Trail	10	Wedgwood Park, Heritage Park, Calvin Crest Park, Lee Street Park, Mill Race Park, Peck Street Park, Little League Baseball Complex, Buck Creek Trail, Grand River Waterfront, and Grand River Pathway
Picnic Facilities (tables and grills)	6	Wedgwood Park, Heritage Park, Calvin Crest Park, Mill Race Park, Peck Street Park, and Grand River Waterfront
Nature Education	0	
Restrooms	4	Wedgwood Park, Heritage Park, Calvin Crest Park, and Little League Baseball Complex



**Table 8: Inventory of Amenities Per Park**

PARK	AMENITIES
Wedgwood Park	Baseball/Softball Field, Volleyball Court, Football Field, Horseshoe Pits, Playground Equipment, Pickleball Courts, Standing Workout Equipment, Restrooms, Concession Stands, Drinking Fountain, Parking Area, 2 Picnic Shelters with Picnic Tables, Campfire Area, 4 Charcoal Grills
Heritage Park	Basketball Court, Soccer Field, Playground Equipment, Sand Volleyball Court, Disc Golf Course, Picnic Shelter, 15 Picnic Tables, 5 Charcoal Grills, Paved Parking Area, Gravel Pathway, Dock, 11 Benches
Calvin Crest Park	Baseball/Softball Field, Basketball Court, 8 Tennis Courts, Playground Equipment, 3 Picnic tables, Picnic Shelter, Restrooms, Pathway, 11 Benches
Lee Street Park	4 Benches, Basketball Goal, Playground, Sand Pit
Mill Race Park	3 Picnic Tables, 5 Benches
Peck Street Park	Paved Pathway, 4 Benches, 2 Picnic Tables, Tot Lot
Little League Baseball Complex	4 Baseball Fields, 1 Softball Field, 1 Tee-Ball Field, Restrooms, Concessions, Seating, Parking Lot
Buck Creek Trail	1.8 Miles of Paved Pathway, Benches, Access to Buck Creek and Grand River
Grand River Waterfront	River Access, Picnic Tables, Kayak Launch, Benches, Parking Area, Public Boat Launch
Grand River Pathway	Bike Path Connecting to Kent Trails, Three Mile Paved Pathway with one lane of Non-Motorized Access Only, Benches

## NEARBY COUNTY FACILITIES

### Millenium Park/Johnson Park (Kent County)

Together, these parks on the north side of the Grand River provide a natural respite from the bustle of Greater Grand Rapids, as well as active amenities such as a splash pad, boathouse, playgrounds, and a beach. There is a portion of Millenium Park that is south of the Grand River, and located within Grandville.

**Classification:** Regional Park

**Size:** Approximately 1,700 acres

**Accessibility Assessment:** 3

## PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Many community organizations and other operate private recreation facilities within and surrounding the City of Grandville.

**Table 9: Private Recreational Facilities Near Grandville**

ACTIVITY	NAME
Horse Riding / Camps	Northfork Farms and Outback (Horse & Adventure Camps)
Zoo	John Ball Zoo (Grand Rapids)
Museum	Van Andel Museum Center Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum Grand Rapids Art Museum Grand Rapids Children's Museum Grand Rapids African American Art Museum and Archives
Golf	Wallinwood Springs Sunnybrook Glen Eagle The Pines Maple Hill
Miniature Golf	Loeschner's Village Green
Indoor Playground	Playworld



## GRANDVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Grandville Public Schools provides a full range of athletic facilities for students from Kindergarten through high school. Some of these facilities are located in city parks, or otherwise open to the public, and are therefore described in this plan. Other facilities are for school use only, and are not described in this plan.

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# Goals and Objectives



## Goal 1

Provide diverse and exciting recreational opportunities for all residents

1. Upgrade park amenities in as many parks as possible by 2030, as described in the Action Plan.
2. Invest in modern equipment that is fun, safe, equitable, and sustainable.
3. Provide a wide variety of activities, facilities, and amenities.
4. Ensure that newly popular facilities, such as Disc Golf and Pickleball Courts, are provided to the public.
5. Identify and implement opportunities for pollinator gardens and other areas of flowering landscaping. Recruit volunteers to create a “Garden Club” to maintain the flowers.
6. Consider a location in or around Grandville for a dog park.

## Goal 2

Ensure all residents have access to green space and parks amenities in their neighborhoods

1. Ensure all parks have amenities that add value to the surrounding community, in proportion to the size of the park and the needs of the community.
2. Acquire land along Buck Creek as described in the Greenway Vision to create a continuous natural and recreational space running through the core of the City.
3. Ensure parks have adequate and appropriate space nearby for parking vehicles, where deemed necessary and appropriate.
4. Provide bicycle parking at parks where deemed necessary and appropriate.
5. Work with other City departments to ensure sidewalks are constructed to reach all parks, and work with both City and County partners to build out the planned non-motorized pathway network.
6. Work with other City departments to ensure all infrastructure surrounding parks is in working order and supports the needs of the park users.



## Goal 3

### Design all parks to be welcoming, accessible, and fun for all potential users

1. Involve the community and the general public in parks improvement decisions.
2. Understand the needs of the neighborhood when planning parks improvements.
3. Understand the history of parks and their surroundings when planning parks improvements.
4. Understand the potential users of a park when designing parks improvements.
5. Understand the potential for vandalism or other negative influences when planning parks improvements.
6. Maintain and update the signage that identifies City parks.
7. Promote events and activities in parks.
8. Promote opportunities for residents to invest in parks themselves, such as community gardens, neighborhood clean-ups, and community art projects.

## Goal 4

### Design parks using best practices for sustainability and resiliency

1. Reduce impervious surface in parks where possible.
2. Preserve wetlands and protect flood plains.
3. Preserve trees, and replace any removed trees on a two-to-one basis.
4. Use native species for landscaping where possible.
5. Utilize recycled materials in facilities and equipment.
6. Provide and maintain trash and recycling receptacles.

## Goal 5

### Continue to ensure that Grandville's parks are a source of community pride

1. Maintain all parks to a high level of quality.
2. Provide high-quality, fun, and exciting equipment and amenities.
3. Work with the community to make park spaces the center of community life.
4. Invest in public art and other placemaking activities within parks.
5. Highlight the important role parks play in providing positive stimulation and exercise for young people and families.
6. Promote city parks to the regional community.
7. Encourage residents to take pride in their neighborhood parks, and "adopt" them as their own.
8. Increase maintenance budget to ensure amenities remain in good condition.





4



# **Buck Creek Greenway Vision**



# Buck Creek Greenway Plan

The Buck Creek Greenway is envisioned to be a space that connects parks, neighborhoods, and creek in a cohesive greenway system that can be enjoyed by trail users, all while supporting and preserving Buck Creek's beautiful and important ecosystem. Buck Creek provides an abundance of wildlife, trails, and sustainable environments. According to a study prepared by Streamside Ecological Services, excessive nutrients from agricultural and urban runoff poses risks to Buck Creek's water quality, thus impacting the brown trout that inhabit the creek. The City of Grandville has made it an objective to preserve land around Buck Creek and create a buffer to protect this ecosystem.

Figure 2: Buck Creek Greenway Plan



The City will implement the Buck Creek Greenway in several ways. In some areas, the existing trail will be extended along the creek. In other areas, conservation easements will be obtained from willing property owners - and, in some cases, the City may acquire property, though only from willing sellers.

In some areas, private property owners will retain control over the creek edge. The City views these property owners as partners in managing the flooding of the creek and ensuring its long-term health.

## Buck Creek Greenway

City of Grandville, Michigan

December 18, 2019

### LEGEND

- Existing Easements and Public Land
- Potential Easements or Acquisition
- Middle School
- Senior Neighbor Center
- Potential Conservation Easements
- Existing Buck Creek Trail
- New Bridge and Trail

0 500 1,000  
Feet



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.  
Data Source: City of Grandville 2019. McKenna 2019.





5



# Non-Motorized Trails

The City of Grandville contains many trails and other recreational amenities that are extremely valuable to residents and to creating a walkable City. In order to continue to encourage the use of more non-motorized forms of transportation, such as walking and biking, there are various places where the City will pursue connections between bike trails and pedestrian safety measures.



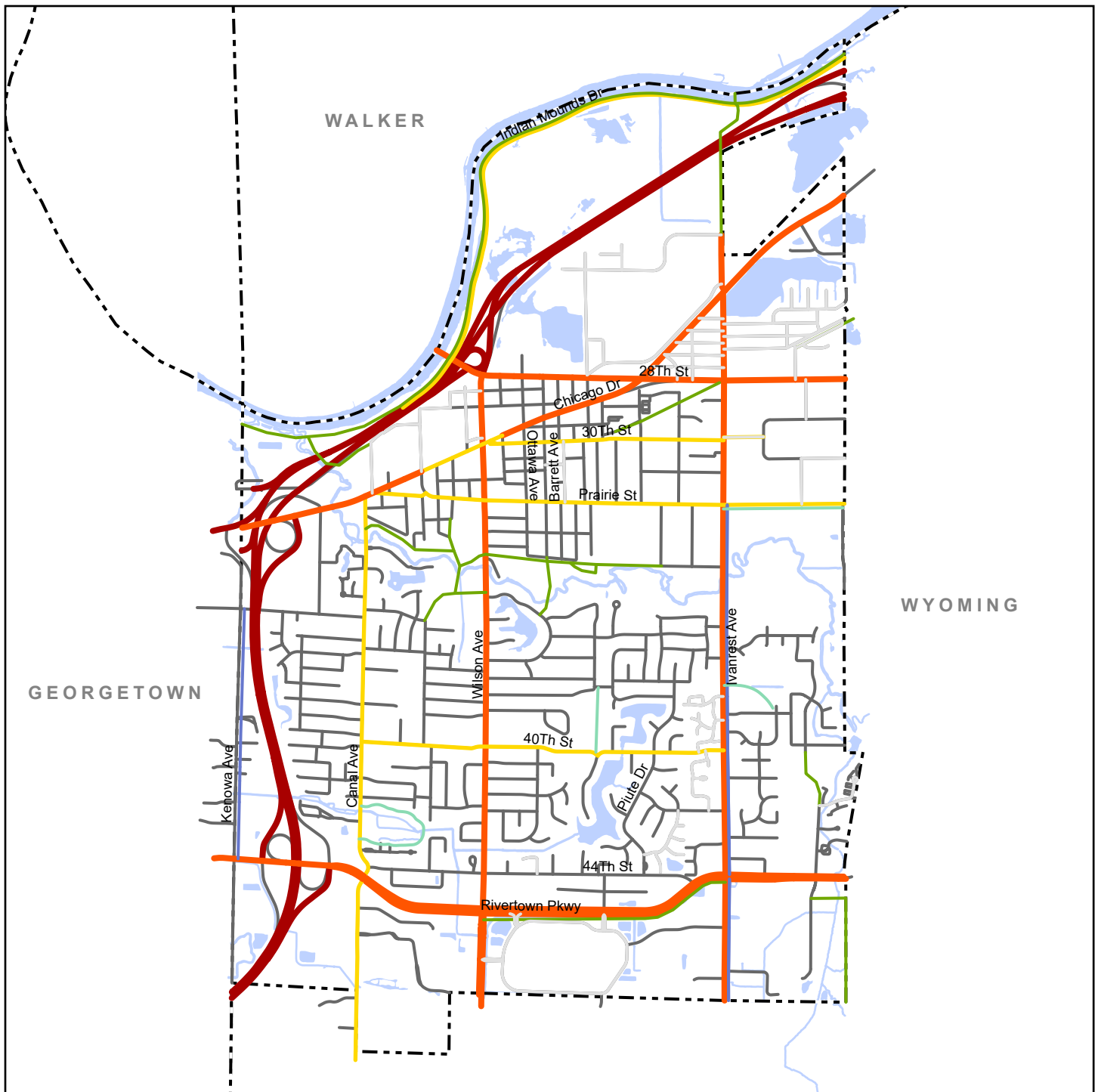


# Pedestrian Safety

The City of Grandville has various crosswalks throughout the City that provide residents safe commutes to recreational amenities. Major streets like Wilson Avenue includes protected and unprotected crosswalks that give residents access to spaces such as Wedgwood Park, Buck Creek Trail, and Calvin Crest Park. There are a few locations that have a potential for increasing pedestrian safety measures.

Indicated with orange on the map, several crosswalks and pedestrian upgrades have been proposed to improve walkability and accessibility. A crosswalk over Prairie, across from the Grandville Cemetery, would allow those in the northern neighborhood to access the parks and trails that lie south of them, such as Mill Race Park and Buck Creek. Additionally, a crosswalk is proposed to be added on Canal Avenue, across from Heritage Park, to open up access to residents who live on the western portion of Canal Avenue. The connection between the two ends of Buck Creek Trail, one ending at Canal Avenue, the other beginning at Broadway Avenue is also sited as a place with a need for pedestrian upgrades, as it is currently unsafe for pedestrians and bikers to cross Chicago Drive. Implementing a crosswalk between Chicago Drive and Broadway Avenue would allow for increased and safer access to the continuation of Buck Creek Trail.





## MAP 5

# Non-Motorized Transportation System

City of Grandville, Kent County, MI

May 14, 2019

### LEGEND

- Freeway
- 4 - 5 Lane Thoroughfare
- 2 - 3 Lane Thoroughfare
- Non-Motorized Trail
- Local Street - No Sidewalks
- Local Street - With Sidewalks
- Bike Lanes
- Trails
- Rivers
- Water Bodies
- - - Municipal Boundaries



Basemap Source: City of Grandville 2018,  
Michigan Center for Geographic Information,  
Version 17a.  
Data Source: City of Grandville 2019,  
McKenna 2019



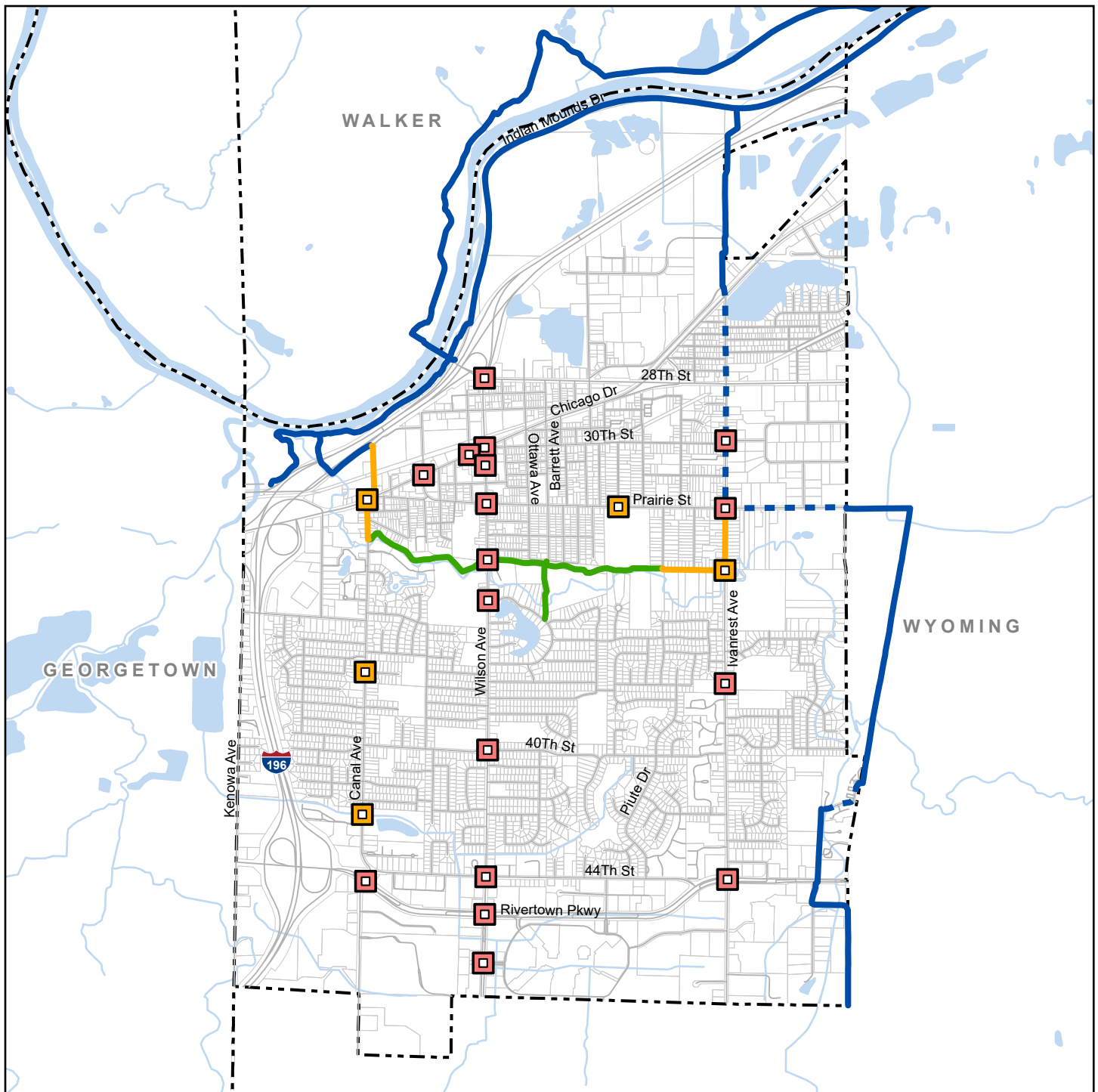


# Bike Trails Connectivity

A portion of Kent Trails runs through the eastern part of the City of Grandville, running down from the Grand River, down Ivanrest Avenue, along Prairie Street, and into the City of Wyoming and Byron Center. The Kent Trails continue across the Grand River into the City of Walker, which connects to Buck Creek Trail and the Grand River Pathway along Indian Mounds Drive. In order to promote use of this trail, this section of the Kent Trails has been targeted as a place for trail upgrades, indicated as a dashed line on the map of Non-Motorized Transportation.

Buck Creek Trail is the other major bike trail in the City of Grandville, and runs from 34th Street to Canal Avenue. Buck Creek Trail begins again at Broadway, and in partnership with Kent Trails, connects to major regional trails from there. Along Buck Creek Trail, two major disconnections, one between Canal and Broadway, the other between 34th and the Kent Trails on Ivanrest, will be pursued as new connections to promote trail connectivity and access. Indicated with yellow on the map, these connections will create a loop between Buck Creek and Kent Trails, connecting residents to regional amenities and recreational opportunities.





# Non-Motorized Transportation

City of Grandville, Michigan

July 25, 2019

## Legend

- Parcels
- Municipal Boundaries
- Roads
- Lakes, Rivers, Streams, Drains
- Buck Creek Trail
- Buck Creek Trail Extension
- Kent Trails
- Upgrade to Trail
- Existing Crosswalk
- Proposed Crosswalk/Pedestrian Safety Upgrades



0 0.25 0.5  
Miles

Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.  
Data Source: City of Grandville 2019.  
McKenna 2019.







6



# **10-Year Citywide Action Plan**

# 10-Year Citywide Action Plan

**NOTE:** Costs are based on square foot take-offs from aerial photos, and include 15% contingency, but no AE fees, permitting costs, or infrastructure (utility, stormwater management) upgrades.

Investments marked with ● are considered high priority, to be completed in 1-2 years.

**Table 10: 10-Year Citywide Action Plan**

PARK NAME	2020-2025 (5-YEAR HORIZON)	COST ESTIMATE	FUNDING SOURCE	2026-2030 (ASPIRATIONS)
Acquisition	Acquire Land (or conservation easements) along Buck Creek to complete the Buck Creek Greenway Vision	TBD	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy	Continue acquisition and easements
Wedgwood Park	● Replace Woodchips with Rubber Flooring	\$20/sq. ft.	City Parks Budget State Grants School District Facilities Budget Private Philanthropy	Splash Pad Execute Plan for Horseshoe Pit Area
	● Relocate and Add Swings	\$15,000		
	Additional Pickleball Court	\$40,000		
	Sand Pit Improvements	\$10,000		
	Replace grass football field with artificial turf	\$20/sq. ft.		
	Consider the future of the horseshoe pits, and determine whether a new use, or a refurbishment, would be appropriate	\$10,000		
Heritage Park	● Safety Improvements to Dock	\$10,000	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy	Expansion of Parking Lot
	● Replace Woodchips with Rubber Flooring	\$20/sq. ft.		
	● Relocate and Add Swings	\$15,000		
	Street Parking Signage	\$5,000		
	Expand Parking Lot	TBD		
Calvin Crest Park	● Update Basketball Courts	\$15,000/ea.	City Parks Budget State Grants Calvin Christian High School Facilities Budget Private Philanthropy	Partner with Calvin Crest HS to Relocate Existing Tennis Courts
	● Woodchip Replacement with Rubber Flooring	\$20/sq. ft.		
	● Playground Improvements	TBD		
	● Relocate Tennis Courts to More Stable Ground	\$40,000/ea.		
	Relocate and Add Swings	\$15,000		
	Higher Fencing	\$5,000		
Lee Street Park	● Canopies	\$184,000	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy	



PARK NAME	2020-2025 (5-YEAR HORIZON)	COST ESTIMATE	FUNDING SOURCE	2026-2030 (ASPIRATIONS)
Mill Race Park	● Nature Play Space	\$170,500	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy Volunteers	Permanent Restrooms Upgrade Ice Rink, Including Refrigeration
	● Angled Parking on Carlton Park Drive with Permeable Surface	\$100,155		
	● Seasonal Ice Rink (without refrigeration)	\$42,350		
	● Replace the Barn with a Small Pavilion, with Warming Shelter or Fire Pit	\$115,500		
	● Pollinator Gardens and Native Plantings	\$55,000		
	● Portable Restrooms	TBD		
	Low-Impact Disk Golf Course	\$41,305		
	Unpaved Trail on South Side of Buck Creek	\$44,374		
Peck Street Park	● Canopies	\$184,000	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy	Community Garden
Little League Baseball Complex	Street Parking Signage	\$5,000	City Parks Budget	Expanded Partnership with Little League
	Fencing	\$10,000	State Grants	
	Portable Restrooms	TBD	Private Philanthropy	
	Annual Assessments with Little League	\$5,000	Little League Facilities Budget	
Buck Creek Trail	● Create and Implement Wayfinding and Other Signage Along Trail	\$50,000	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy	Acquire and/or obtain easements from property owners to create Buck Creek Greenway, as described in this plan  Expand the trail as shown in this plan.
	● Native Species and Tree Planting	\$30,000		
	● Remove Roots Undermining Trail	\$10,000		
	Repave Trail as Needed	TBD		
Grand River Waterfront	● Promotion and Education	\$10,000	City Parks Budget	Improved Access
	Improved Access Plan			
Grand River Pathway	None			Repave and Repair Indian Mounds Drive
Land Adjacent to the Senior Center	Gazebo	\$20,000	Senior Center City Parks Budget	
	Picnic Area	\$10,000		
	Senior-Maintained Gardens	\$5,000		
Land Across from South Elementary	Replace dilapidated tennis courts with pickleball courts	TBD	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy	
Land South of Cemetery	Remove and replace pedestrian bridge	\$121,000	City Parks Budget	
	Construct unpaved trails through woods for mountain biking and other activities	\$392,480	State Grants Private Philanthropy	

**LOCATION:**

3391 Wilson Ave SW

**SIZE:**

14 acres

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Neighborhood Park

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:**

3

# Wedgwood Park

**AMENITIES:**

Wedgwood Park offers a wide variety of amenities and green space, located off of Wilson Avenue. The park features various sports fields, playground equipment, dedicated parking, and access to Buck Creek Trail.

**BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT:**

Amenities at Wedgwood Park are accessible using paved sidewalks and pathways throughout the park. Wedgwood offers paved parking with several handicap parking spaces allowing all users to access play equipment, picnic shelters, restrooms, and the baseball and football fields. Facilities such as some of the picnic tables and play equipment are not barrier free.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

There were numerous comments received about improvements to Wedgwood Park. They are:

- Replace wood chips with rubber mat
- Improve or remove the sand pit
- Add additional swings that are accessible to younger children
- Wedgwood Park would be an ideal location for a splash pad
- Improvements should be made to the walking trails, specifically Buck Creek Trail
- Introduce more picnic tables and benches, especially those in the shade
- Add more pickleball courts

**ACTION PLAN:**

As the comments from the public indicate, the City will consider making significant improvements to the playground at Wedgwood Park, including replacing wood chips with poured-in-place rubber flooring, increasing the number of baby and toddler accessible swings, adding a handicap accessible swing, and reducing the size of the sand pit, while adding amenities such as small built-in sand toys. The City will also consider adding additional pickleball courts, one of which would be located near South Elementary, in replacement of the tennis court.

**ASPIRATIONS:**

Long term improvements to the park will include a splash pad and relocation of swings to a centralized area in order to increase proximity of swings for different ages groups of children. The City will also strive to continue maintenance to the walking paths of the park, beautification through landscaping, and promoting safe community spaces.

**LOCATION:**

4264 Canal

**SIZE:**

19 acres

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Neighborhood Park

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:**

3

# Heritage Park

**AMENITIES:**

Heritage Park is one of the most popular parks in the city and is located off of Canal Avenue. Heritage Park features a beautiful pond right in the center of the property, surrounded by a walking path that includes a small footbridge, as well as a dock to look out over the lake. The interior of the park includes a disc golf course, updated playground equipment, benches, and a pavilion with picnic tables. The Historical No. 10 Schoolhouse is located in Heritage Park, acts as a living museum and provides various historical learning and interacting opportunities. The large trees, natural walkway, and various wildlife add to the beauty of the park.

**BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT:**

The parking lot at Heritage Park is paved and access to the bathroom facility is barrier-free. However, the gravel trail which runs all around the lake, including the dock, as well as some unpaved pathway connections and amenities such as playground equipment and volleyball court have limited accessibility.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

According to residents, improvements in this park should be focused on improving the walking path and dock on the pond to make them more accessible, regular landscaping,

and more parking in the back part of the park, near the playground. Many residents also requested regular maintenance to remove goose and duck feces that are on the path. The feeding of ducks remains a problem at Heritage, and residents suggested adding more signage indicating that the ducks should not be fed in order to better manage the population.

**ACTION PLAN:**

Heritage Park will focus on regular maintenance to ensure that the play equipment and other amenities are preserved and that landscaping is maintained and improved. Public input received indicated that the City should strive to make Heritage Park more accessible through safety upgrades to the dock. Toddler swings will be moved in closer proximity to the other set of swings to encourage ease of access. Street parking on 42nd Street and Cherokee Avenue might be encouraged in order to address the parking needs at Heritage Park through signage.

**ASPIRATIONS:**

Future improvement to Heritage park might include an expansion of the parking lot to the east of where it currently sits, as well as continued maintenance of the paths, disc golf course, and other amenities at Heritage Park. As with other playground equipment, the City will consider replacing the wood chips with a poured-in-place rubber flooring to promote accessibility and reduce continued maintenance.



**LOCATION:**

3796 Ivanrest

**SIZE:**

9 acres

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Neighborhood Park

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:**

3

# Calvin Crest Park

**AMENITIES:**

Calvin Crest Park is located behind Calvin Christian Highschool, on the east side of Ivanrest Avenue. This park features a baseball/softball field, a full basketball court, 8 tennis courts, natural areas, and pathways. The playground equipment is tucked into the right back corner of the park, near the forested area, and includes a historical metal stage coach that invites kids to use their imagination on the playground.

**BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT:**

Calvin Crest is fairly accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities due to a paved parking lot, pathways, and sidewalks that lead to tennis courts and play equipment. Access to the basketball court has limited accessibility.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

A survey was conducted concerning Calvin Crest Park, in which many residents commented Calvin Crest Park feels forgotten among Grandville's parks. They expressed that there needs to be more signage and improvements to encourage people to visit, and continue visiting, this park. Among these improvements were:

- Repairs/Relocation of Tennis Courts
- Resurfacing of Basketball Courts

- Major Playground Equipment Improvements:

- » Rubber flooring instead of woodchips
- » Increased number of swings, especially for young children
- » Improvements to safety and accessibility

**ACTION PLAN:**

In the next 5 years, the City will strive to improve and make repairs to Calvin Crest Park, as the public comments indicated. Resurfacing of the basketball courts, as well as focused maintenance and investment in the playground equipment through pour-in-place rubber mats and adding additional swings, would be a huge asset for this park and encourage more people to use it. Increasing the heights of fencing surrounding the ball fields in order to increase safety is a priority.

**ASPIRATIONS:**

Long term improvements to the park might include partnering with Calvin Crest Highschool to relocate two of the existing tennis courts, as they are currently in a position where continued maintenance would not be able to ensure they remain playable and unflooded, as well as other improvements to the tennis courts on site.

**LOCATION:**

Lee Street @ Homewood Street

**SIZE:**

1 acre

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Mini-Park

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:**

4

# Lee Street Park

**AMENITIES:**

Lee Street Park is located on the corner of Lee Street and Homewood Street, surrounded by a residential neighborhood. It is a remarkable asset to the residents surrounding it and with access to a playground, sand pit, basketball hoop, and benches, Lee Street Park provides a variety of amenities in only an acre of land.

**BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT:**

The paved path throughout the interior of the park connects the parks amenities such as benches, a small playground, sand pit, and basketball goal and gives people with a broad range of physical capabilities access to these amenities. Lee Street is widely accessible to pedestrians, but does not include a parking lot.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Residents indicated that they were generally very happy with this park, however some expressed interest in filling the wood chips more frequently and incorporating an increased number of shaded benches, especially in the swing area.

**ACTION PLAN:**

The City will install canopies to provide shade over benches, without needing to plant trees which would interfere with powerlines that run over the park. Maintenance and landscaping of Lee Street Park will continue to be a priority.

**ASPIRATIONS:**

The City currently has no improvements planned for Lee Street park during the planning period. Following the 5-Year Horizon.

**LOCATION:**

3370 Carlton Park

**SIZE:**

23 acres

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Community Park

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:**

1

# Mill Race Park

**AMENITIES:**

Mill Race Park is a forested green space that is currently undeveloped as a park. It features a few picnic tables and benches and access to Buck Creek trail.

**BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT:**

Due to its fairly undeveloped state, this site is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities and does not include any paved or unpaved walkways. Incorporating more accessibility into Mill Race Park will be a priority moving forward.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

The public was invited to dream about the future of Mill Race Park, and they came up with a number of creative ideas, including ice skating, pollinator gardens, and a nativescape playground. However, public sentiment was also clear that the wooded, wet, and flood-prone parts of the park should remain largely undisturbed, and that new amenities should be located near the existing barn.

**ACTION PLAN:**

Mill Race Park is an important component of the preservation and beautification of the Buck Creek Greenway. In partnership with the residents of Grandville, the Park Committee, and landscape architects, the City has developed a plan for Mill Race Park that preserves the integrity and beauty of Buck Creek and the green space of Mill Race Park, while incorporating new amenities for residents.

The City's goal with developing parts of Mill Race Park is to implement low impact amenities that do not overtly disturb the general character of the site, all while enhancing the natural features of the site. As shown in the concept map for Mill Race Park, there are a variety of amenities being added to the site that will enhance both the visitor and natural experience.

A small nature play area will be added to the site, allowing for imaginative play and seamless integration into the existing character of the park. Following the replacement of the pedestrian bridge south of the cemetery, this plan looks to developing unpaved, multi-use trails to the south of Buck Creek, allowing residents to mountain bike, run, walk, or snowshoe. In order to provide access to these amenities without increasing the number of impervious surfaces, and thus increasing nutrient run off, a few diagonal parking spaces on Carlton Park Drive constructed of a permeable surface are included in this plan. The barn on the property is planned to be demolished, but will be commemorated through salvaging the weathervane, and potentially other features, and incorporating them into a new pavilion.





Several sites at Mill Race Park are planned for native plantings and pollinator habitats. These will continue to facilitate the natural environment of Mill Race Park, as well as provide ecological benefits to the area. In order to protect this habitat, any additions made to the park will be done so with best practices to keep them as low impact as possible. For instance, a temporary ice-skating rink will be constructed in the winter according to the existing natural landscape and flooding patterns. A low-impact disk golf course will increase recreational opportunities without requiring any alterations to the landscape.

The following additions are planned for Mill Race Park:

- Nature Play Space
- Permeable Surface Angled Parking on Carlton Park Drive
- Low-Impact Disk Golf Course
- Restrooms
- Seasonal Ice Rink
- Replace the Barn with a Small Pavilion
- Pollinator Gardens and Native Plantings

In addition to these amenities, the City will also be pursuing improvements to the property south of the Grandville Cemetery and initiatives to connect Mill Race Park to this parcel of land. These improvements include:

- Removal and replacement of pedestrian bridge
- The construction of unpaved multi-use trails on the south side of Buck Creek that connect the Cemetery and Mill Race Park through conservation easements on property in between Mill Race Park and the land south of the cemetery.

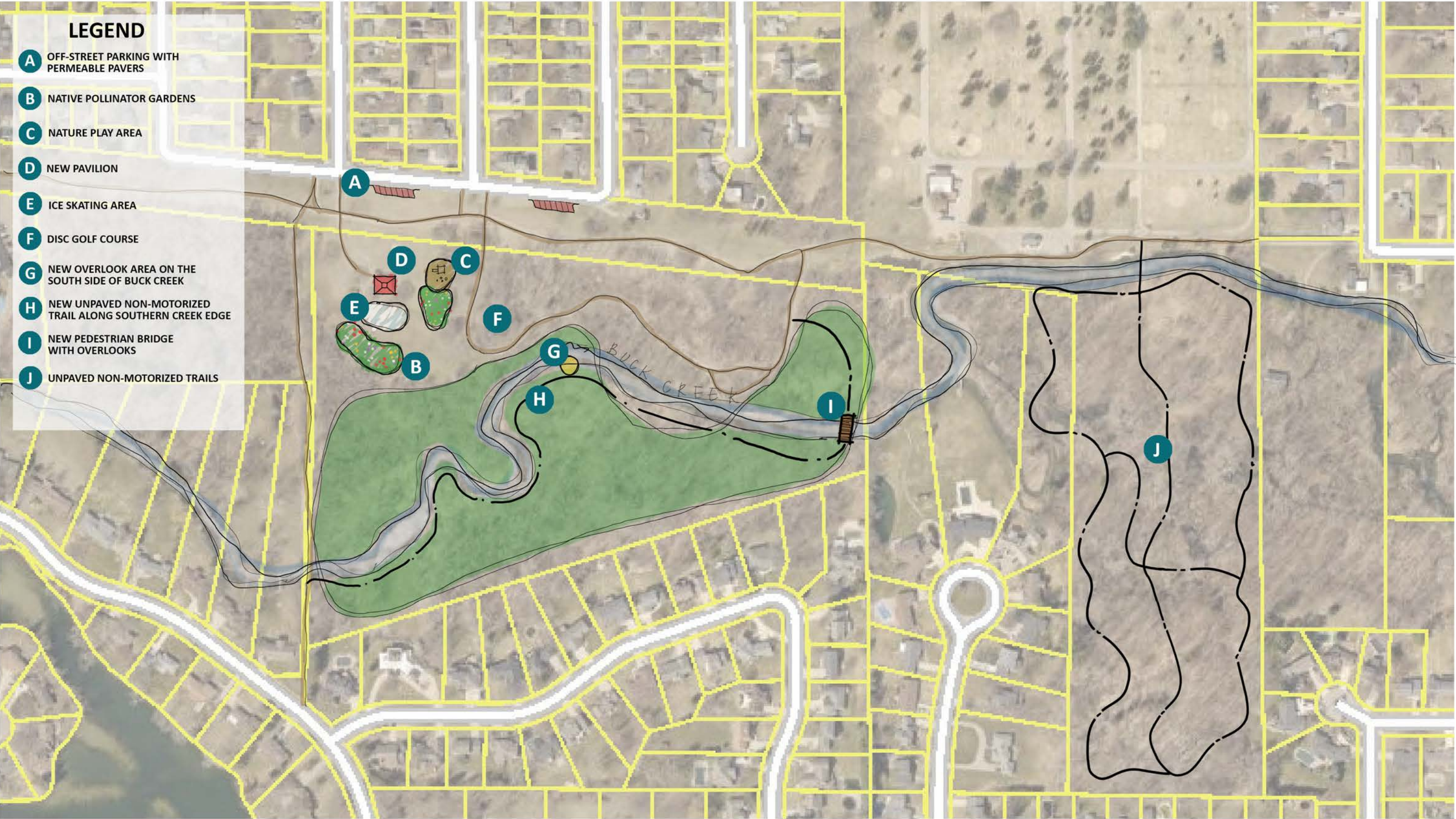
### ASPIRATIONS:

Over time, Mill Race Park should become part of the larger Buck Creek Greenway, and should become a gathering place for the community – without negatively impacting nearby neighbors or harming the existing ecosystem in the park.

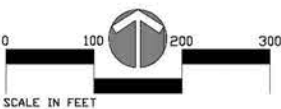








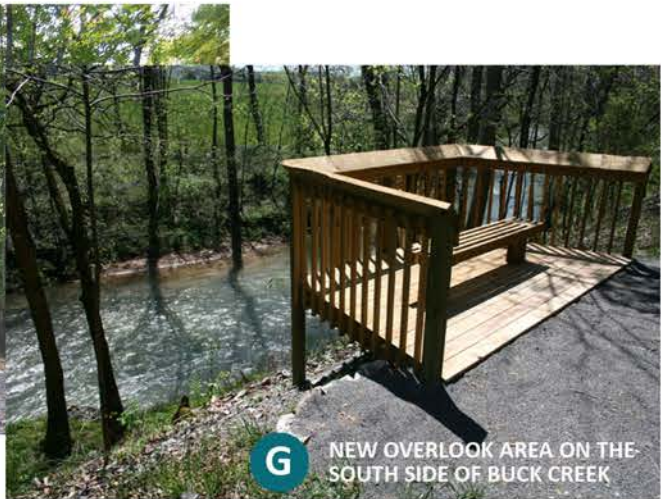
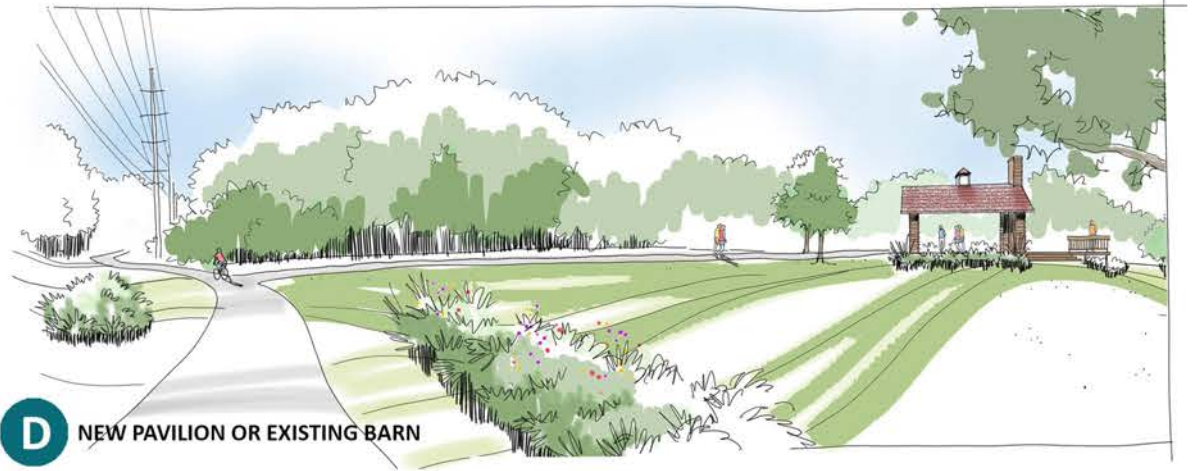
**MILL RACE PARK PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN**  
GRANDVILLE, MICHIGAN











# MILL RACE PARK PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN

GRANDVILLE, MICHIGAN







**LOCATION:**

Peck Street @ Earle Avenue

**SIZE:**

2 acres

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Mini-Park

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:**

4

# Peck Street Park

**AMENITIES:**

Located in a residential neighborhood, Peck Street Park is a miniature park situated on the corner of Peck Street and Earle Avenue. It is a beautifully landscaped park that features a tot lot, benches, and picnic tables, one of which is handicap accessible.

**BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT:**

Peck Street is widely accessible to pedestrians, and includes a paved pathway that provides access to the tot lot, benches, and picnic tables, one of which is wheelchair accessible.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Residents expressed interest in a community garden plot next to the park, as well as more native plants and greenery in the greenspace, and updated basic play equipment, with more shade incorporated for parents while they watch their children play.

**ACTION PLAN:**

As with Lee Street Park, while trees are not able to be planted here due to interference with the power lines, the City could implement canopies to provide shade over seating areas. Continued maintenance and landscaping with native plantings could be prioritized.

**ASPIRATIONS:**

A community garden in the green space would be a huge asset to the community surrounding Peck Street Park, and support from the City could be given to residents to implement that project.



# Little League Baseball Complex

## LOCATION:

3777 Aaron Avenue

## SIZE:

13 acres

## CLASSIFICATION:

Sports Complex

## ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

2

## AMENITIES:

The Little League Baseball Complex is a sports complex, adjacent to West Elementary School, and provides access to many in the Wedgwood Park neighborhood and beyond to 4 baseball fields, 1 softball field, and 1 tee-ball field, as well as concessions and seating.

## BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT:

While the park's parking lot is paved, this park is not widely accessible due to the lack of paved walking pathways leading to the ball fields or the concessions.

## PUBLIC INPUT:

There were various comments received about improvements needed at the Little League Baseball Complex. They were:

- Parking is currently an issue when attending Little League games
- New and working scoreboards are needed
- There is a need for general field improvements, including lighting and higher fencing
- Bathrooms closer to fields are needed

## ACTION PLAN:

Organized team sports are popular for all ages. It is recommended that the City work with Little League to keep fields well maintained, as well as perform an annual review of the Complex to assess what amenities should be improved or added. During Little League season, portable restrooms could be placed in closer proximity to field. Signage to indicate and encourage street parking will be implemented to alleviate congestion and encourage safe parking on public streets surrounding the Complex.

## ASPIRATIONS:

The City recognizes that parking is inconvenient during the Little League season. However, there are not currently any plans to expand the parking lot, as there is no adequate place to locate it. However, it is anticipated that encouraging street parking will aid in congestion and ease of parking during the Little League Season.



#### LOCATION:

34th Street @ Wayburn

#### SIZE:

2.1 acres

#### CLASSIFICATION:

Greenway

#### ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

3

# Buck Creek Trail

## AMENITIES:

Buck Creek Trail is 1.8 miles paved trail that links Wedgwood Park to Canal Avenue, and connects many focal points of the community, such as the Senior Center and various neighborhoods and schools. Running alongside Buck Creek, this trail features benches, mileage markers, and attractive landscaping along the side.

## BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT:

Parking areas near the trail, as well the trail itself, are paved, and allow for people with a range of physical capabilities to access this amenity. However, derelict signage, flooding, and dangers in crossing major streets in order to access the trail act as impediments to various groups of people and contribute to limited accessibility of Buck Creek Trail.

## PUBLIC INPUT:

Both walkers and bikers provided comments about Buck Creek Trail, indicating that better signage and maps are needed along the trail, as well as expressing a need for trail maintenance and repairs, such as repaving and adding trash cans and lighting. Residents also stated that crossing Chicago Drive is difficult, and that connectivity to the Grand River and to Kent Trails would be an asset to the trail experience. Pedestrian safety across Prairie,

as many residents from the North of Grandville access Buck Creek Trail from this point, was also expressed as a concern.

## ACTION PLAN:

- Repave Buck Creek Trail
- Design and implement Buck Creek Trail wayfinding signs and maps
- Crosswalk at Prairie and Locke to facilitate safe access to the trail
- Continued maintenance and repairs, including:
  - » Nature education labels for trees, native plantings, and wildlife
  - » Weeds and roots addressed regularly

## ASPIRATIONS:

The City envisions a Buck Creek Greenway that includes preserved frontage along the entire length of the creek. Preserving the wetlands portion of the Dill Property on Ivanrest, as well as other targeted expansions of the trail, located where appropriate and desired by nearby residents, will provide residents of Grandville with a large trail system, as well as preserving an important and naturally beautiful resource.



**LOCATION:**

City's northern border on the Grand River

**SIZE:**

15 acres

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Natural Resource

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:**

2

# Grand River Waterfront

**AMENITIES:**

The Grand River Waterfront is located along the river on the northern border of the City and features a public boat launch, a kayak launch, and access to the beautiful nature of the Grand River.

**BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT:**

The Waterfront pathway features a gravel parking area, however the lack of paved areas closer to the river limit accessibility on this site.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Residents expressed appreciation over the new kayak launch, and regarded it as a big improvement to the park. Much of the feedback given by included that residents were not aware where the parking lot was located, and would like to see improved lighting and a graded or terraced access directly to the waterfront, as well as increased signage to let residents know that it is a resource to them.

**ACTION PLAN:**

Continued maintenance of the Grand River waterfront, as well as promotion of the resource through signage and education will be a priority.

**ASPIRATIONS:**

The City currently has no improvements planned for the Grand River Waterfront in the planning period. The City will continue maintenance and consider the amenities and improvements suggested through public comment.

**LOCATION:**

4234 Indian Mounds Drive SW

**SIZE:**

3 acres

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Natural Resource Area

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:**

3

# Grand River Pathway

**AMENITIES:**

To create the Grand River Pathway, the City converted a two-way road along the Grand River into a one-lane, one-way, with the other lane preserved for non-motorized traffic. This pathway features access to benches and overlook features to enjoy the scenic views of the River.

**BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT:**

The entire length of the Grand River Pathway is paved, allowing people of many different physical abilities to access this amenity. Access to seating and overlook areas presents a barrier and limits accessibility.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Residents expressed interest in this pathway becoming pedestrian only to increase non-motorized traffic safety, as well as improved lighting and available bike rentals. General interest in improving the safety of this pathway were expressed by residents as well.

**ACTION PLAN:**

The City will strive to maintain regular maintenance and repairs to the Grand River Pathway, and to promote its connection to Kent Trails, as well as Downtown Grandville.

**ASPIRATIONS:**

Repaving and repairing Indian Mounds Drive is a long-term goal of the City, and should the funds become available for this project, that would become a priority.







**Public Input**





# Public Engagement

The purpose of this document is to summarize the most frequent responses from the survey data and open-ended responses that relate to the City's vision and goals for its parks, as well as summarize public input gained from attendance at the Grandville Summer Kickoff Carnival.

# SURVEY RESULTS

## Question 1 – Demographics and General Questions

- A total of 590 surveys were completed.
- The survey represented all ages of residents: 31.49% of respondents were between 18-34, 39.26% were between 35-49, 20.86% were between 50-64, and 7.77% were 65 years old and higher.
- The survey represented all areas of the City and beyond; 89.96% indicated that they were residents of Grandville.
- Of these residents, 23.75% indicated they lived in Region 1, 19.26% indicated they lived in Region 2, 47.23% indicated they lived in Region 3, and 9.23% indicated they lived in Region 4 (see Figure 5 below).
- 72.60% indicated that they use parks and recreation programs on a regular basis and believe that these services are important to their quality of life.

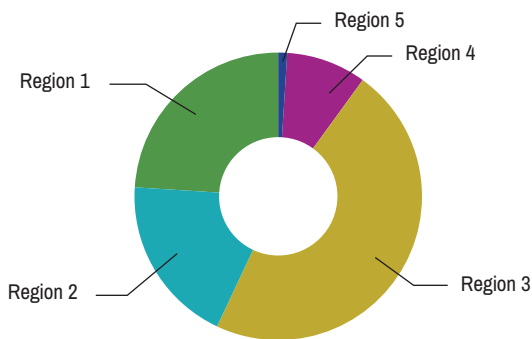
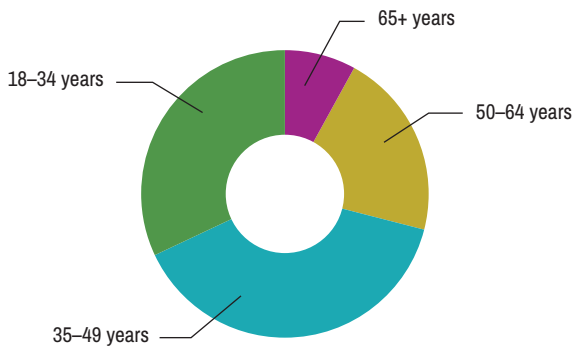
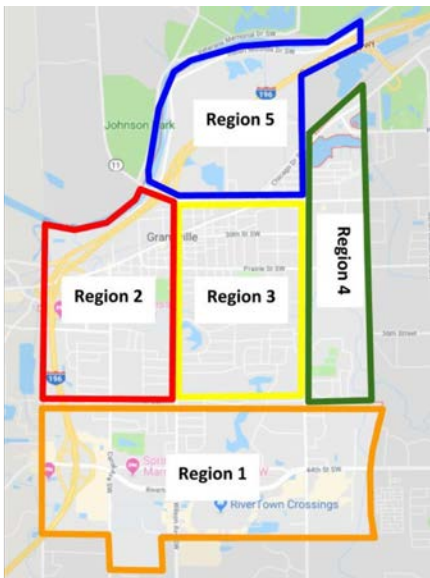


Figure 5: Grandville City Regions

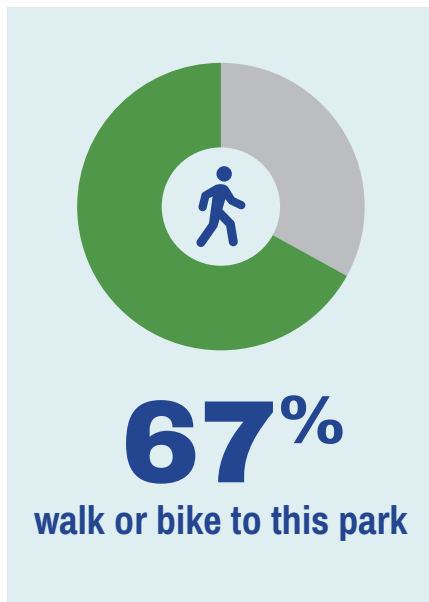






## Question 2 – Wedgwood Park

- 45.45% of respondents walk to this park, 21.21% bike, and 32.95% commute by car.
- 50% of respondents believe the playground is “Good” but could use some improvements.
- 14% believe the availability of walking and biking paths “Falls Short of the Need”, often commenting that these facilities need repairs and updates.
- **New and Enhanced Features:**
  - » Forty-Six (46) residents expressed a need for updated playground equipment, specifically that they would like to see wood chips replaced with a rubber mat to increase accessibility, improvements or removal of the sand pit, and an inclusion of more playground equipment and swings for younger children.
  - » Eleven (11) residents indicated that they would like additional precautions concerning the ducks at this park, such as an automatic feeder with proper duck food to discourage feeding ducks bread.
  - » Forty-Seven (47) of those responding to this question expressed a strong desire for a splash pad at Wedgwood Park.
  - » Eight (8) expressed interest in more pickleball courts.
  - » Ten (10) respondents indicated that they would like to see working water fountains/water bottle filling stations.
  - » Eighteen (18) people responded that they would like to see improvements made to the walking trails in Wedgwood Park, specifically stating that parts of Buck Creek Trail in this park need to be repaved.
  - » Seventeen (17) respondents indicated a need for additional picnic tables and benches, especially those in the shade. This corresponded to comments about adding additional trees to add shade in the park.
  - » Fifteen (15) of those commenting stated that there needs to be updated restrooms that are open earlier in the season, as soon as the park opens, and need to be closer to playground equipment.

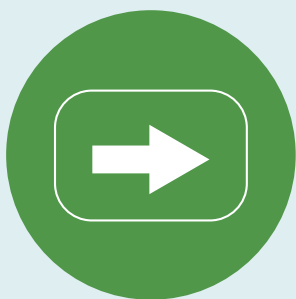




**29** RESPONDENTS  
want paved walking paths

### Question 3 – Heritage Park

- 36.31% of respondents indicated that they walk to Heritage Park, while 47.13% use a car and 14.65% commute by bike.
- Residents expressed that Heritage Park can sometimes feel unsafe, particularly at dusk and dawn. Better lighting could be integral to improving this experience.
- **New and Enhanced Features:**
  - » Three (3) people indicated a need for better lighting in the park.
  - » Seven (7) of those commenting expressed that general landscaping improvements, such as more trees, flowers, etc. would be desired.
  - » Twenty-Nine (29) of respondents indicated that there is extreme interest in paving the path that exists around the pond, as well as making improvement to the dock to make them both more accessible. Improvements to improve flooding on these paths was also requested.
  - » Eighteen (18) residents expressed interest in a splash pad.
  - » Fifteen (15) indicated that there is a need for more picnic areas and benches, especially those that are shaded.
  - » Eight (8) people expressed that they would like to see increased parking at Heritage Park, especially closer to the playground.
  - » Nine (9) stated that there should be more maintenance and clean-up of the duck and goose feces that are on the path as this keeps many from walking around the pond with their children and dogs.
  - » Eight (8) expressed interest in additional and improved basketball courts.



RESIDENTS WANT  
**more signs and  
improvements**

### Question 4 – Calvin Crest Park

- 63.16% of respondents indicate that they commute to Calvin Crest Park on foot, while 21.05% utilize a bike and 15.79% utilize a car. Pedestrian safety should be a priority at Calvin Crest Park.
- Many residents commented that Calvin Crest Park feels fairly forgotten and that there needs to be more signs on Ivanrest and improvements to encourage people to attend, and continue attending, this park. This was reinforced by the low number of responses in regards to this park; just 38 people responded in total.
- **New and Enhanced Features**
  - » Eight (8) of the 38 respondents indicated that major repairs need to be made to the tennis courts, as many of them are flooding.
  - » Two (2) expressed that the basketball courts could use resurfacing.
  - » Eighteen (18) of the 38 who commented stated that the playground needs major improvements, such as cushy ground cover in replacement of woodchips, more swings, and general improvements to play equipment.
  - » Four (4) indicated that pedestrian safety should be a priority through improving handicap access, a safe crosswalk on Ivanrest to encourage connectivity, and walking trail improvements.
  - » Five (5) of the 38 stated that more benches and shelters with grills would be an asset to the park.





### Question 5 – Lee Street Park

- This park received a low number of responses.
- Of the few responses received, most walked to this park.
- **New and Enhanced Features:**
  - » Increased number of shaded benches for parents
  - » Woodchips filled more regularly

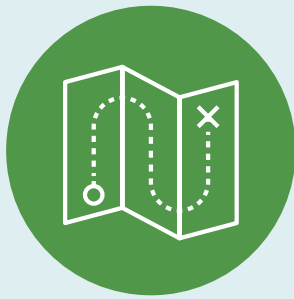
### Question 6 – Peck Street Park

- Almost all of the responses received indicated that residents walk to gain access to Peck Street Park.
- **New and Enhanced Features:**
  - » Seven (7) people stated that they would like to see more trees, native plants, and otherwise greenery planted in Peck Street Park, especially in the greenspace. Shade is needed at Peck Street Park and this would be advantageous in achieving that.
  - » Twelve (12) indicated that updated and more playground equipment is needed, such as more swings, a slide, and rubber ground cover instead of woodchips.



### Question 7 – Little League Baseball Complex

- The primary way that users of this complex commute to it is by car; parking should be considered with more care due to this.
- **New and Enhanced Features:**
  - » Twenty-three (23) of respondents stated that parking is currently an issue at the Little League Complex, and that more of it would be helpful.
  - » Seven (7) stated that new and working scoreboards at the complex should be a priority.
  - » Twenty-two (22) people indicated that field needs improvements, specifically fencing for flyballs, the input of lighting onto the fields, and improvements to fix flooding in the fields.
  - » Eleven (11) respondents states that bathrooms at this facility are needed.
  - » A few people commented that landscaping and more seating at the Little League Complex would be needed.



RESIDENTS WANT

**better signage,  
maps, and safety**

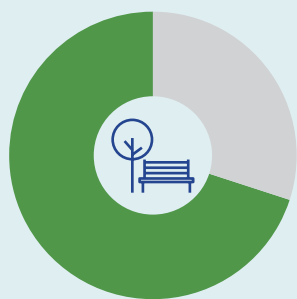
## Question 8 – Buck Creek Trail

- 65.07% of users of Buck Creek Trail commute there by walking, while 27.75% of users get there by bike. Pedestrian and biker safety is a big concern when it comes to use of the Buck Creek Trail.
- The Buck Creek Trail is used most a few times to once a week by the community.
- Among other comments, respondents indicated that crossing along Chicago Drive is an issue, water flooding on the trail inhibits use for part of the year, and safety along the trail at dark is often an issue.
- **New and Enhanced Features:**
  - » Twenty (20) people indicated that better signage and maps are needed along the trail.
  - » Seventeen (17) respondents stated that connectivity to the Grand River and to Kent Trails from Buck Creek Trail would be an asset to the trail experience.
  - » Pedestrian safety was expressed as a concern, with many people indicating that a crosswalk was needed over Prairie and Wilson to ensure safe access.
  - » Twenty-five (25) people expressed that the trail itself needs maintenance and repairs including:
    - Additional trees and native plantings, preferably with labels and wildlife information
    - Additional Trash Cans
    - Lighting to increase safety
    - Repaving of the trail in parts

## Question 9 – Grand River Waterfront/Pathway

- Respondents indicated that better access to the water from downtown and greater Grandville would be an asset to the community.
- **The following enhancements were suggested:**
  - » Enforce non-motorized traffic use only on Indian Mounds Drive
  - » Repaving of Indian Mounds Drive
  - » Addition of more benches, picnic tables, and water fountain





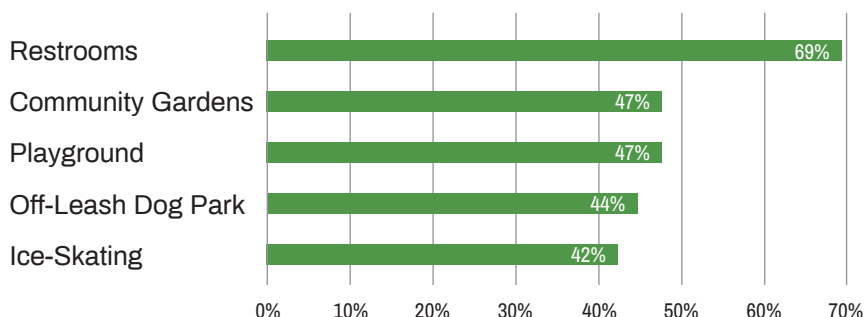
**70%**  
are familiar with this park



**RESIDENTS WANT**  
**dog park**

### Question 10 – Mill Race Park

- About 70% indicated that they were familiar with Mill Race Park.
- The most popular features that people would like to see at Mill Race Park are:



- While many residents expressed that they would like Mill Race Park to remain a green space in the City, many also commented that accessibility could be improved and that small improvements could be made that wouldn't build out the park too much, such as:
  - » Benches
  - » Community Garden
  - » Limited Parking Spots
  - » Nature Education Materials and Programs
  - » Pickleball Courts
  - » Dog Park
    - It is important to note that while there were many requests for a dog park from residents, there were also many requests that asked for there not to be a dog park at Mill Race Park.

### Question 11 – Additional Greenspace

- 71.43% expressed interest in the City pursuing further greenspace and/or parks with the land currently owned near the senior center and cemetery.
- 64.4% indicated that there was no need for additional greenspace near their homes.
- Among those who wished for additional greenspace, the Dill property was mentioned frequently in terms of preserving a natural space, extending the trails system, and that the city should continue to pursue dedicating more space to parks and natural spaces.



## SUMMER KICKOFF RESULTS

Members of the project team, along with City staff and volunteers, staffed a booth at the annual Summer Kickoff in May 2019 to obtain input for the plan. Stickers and postcards were brought to the event with the intention of getting people to take a survey about the Grandville parks. “Schools Out, It’s Parks Season” stickers were handed out to children attending the carnival with the survey link on the bottom of the sticker, and adults were made aware of the survey through the sticker or handing them the postcard after asking them if they enjoy and use the Grandville parks.

There were stickers available for people to indicate where they believe that amenities should be added or things should be improved in the Grandville parks. There were actually many people who came over and engaged with these posters, and wanted to have conversations about the parks.

Many residents commented that they loved Grandville parks and that they would like to see continued investments in the parks. Specifically, residents commented that:

- Mill Race Park should have restrooms and other new amenities.
- Buck Creek Trail is a big asset and continued maintenance to the trail, as well as a focus on pedestrian safety is important.
- A dog park is desired somewhere in the community, as many residents must travel far to reach one.
- A splash pad is also highly desired somewhere in the community, and many residents would like to be able to take their kids to a splash pad at a park in Grandville during the summer.

## VINTAGE FESTIVAL RESULTS

The project team, along with volunteers and City staff, reprised the booth at the Vintage Festival in August 2019. Materials were similar to the Summer Kickoff, but the purpose of the Vintage Festival booth was to gauge reaction to the Action Plan.

Responses were very positive. Specifically, residents commented that:

- The Mill Race Park improvements would be very welcome.
- Upgrades to the amenities at Wedgwood, Heritage, and Calvin Crest Parks are needed.
- Biking is an important pastime, as well as a mode of transportation, for Grandville residents.
- Shade is a concern at Peck Street and Lee Street Parks, and nearby power lines prevent planting trees, so other forms of canopy are needed.





8

# **Background Information**



# Description of the Planning Process

Citizen input played a critical role in the development of this Plan. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use the City's parks and recreation facilities. The process included seven tasks that are discussed below.

## Task One: Community Description

The first task was to obtain a description of Grandville's physical and social features. These features include land use, community facilities, environmental and natural features, as well as population characteristics including age distribution, household size, and income. The Community Description can be found in Chapters 2 and 3.

## Task Two: Parks and Recreation Inventory

The parks and recreation inventory includes written descriptions of facilities in Grandville including both City parks and facilities and recreational amenities operated by other entities, such as the Grandville Public School District, Kent County, or private entities. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation facilities, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities.

## Task Three: Administrative Structure and Funding

The City reviewed the administrative structure of its parks and recreation facilities and programming. This analysis also includes a review of the current and projected revenues and expenditures for Parks and Recreation as well as the grant history of funding received from the MDNR and other sources.

## Task Four: Public Participation

The following public participation methods and events were conducted throughout the process of preparing the Plan:

- **Survey** – A survey was available to City residents through the website [grandvilleparks.com](http://grandvilleparks.com) throughout the spring / summer of 2019. A second survey was made available in August and September of 2019 to gauge reaction to the Action Plan. Selected results can be found in Chapter 7, with full results in the Appendix.
- **Review Period** – TBD

## Task Five: Analysis

Based on the data collected in tasks one through four, the information was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of the Parks and Recreation Department and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.

## Task Six: Action Plan

Taking into account the analysis, goals and objectives and public input results, a five-year plan was created. The Plan provides the City a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources.

## Task Seven: Plan Completion and Adoption.

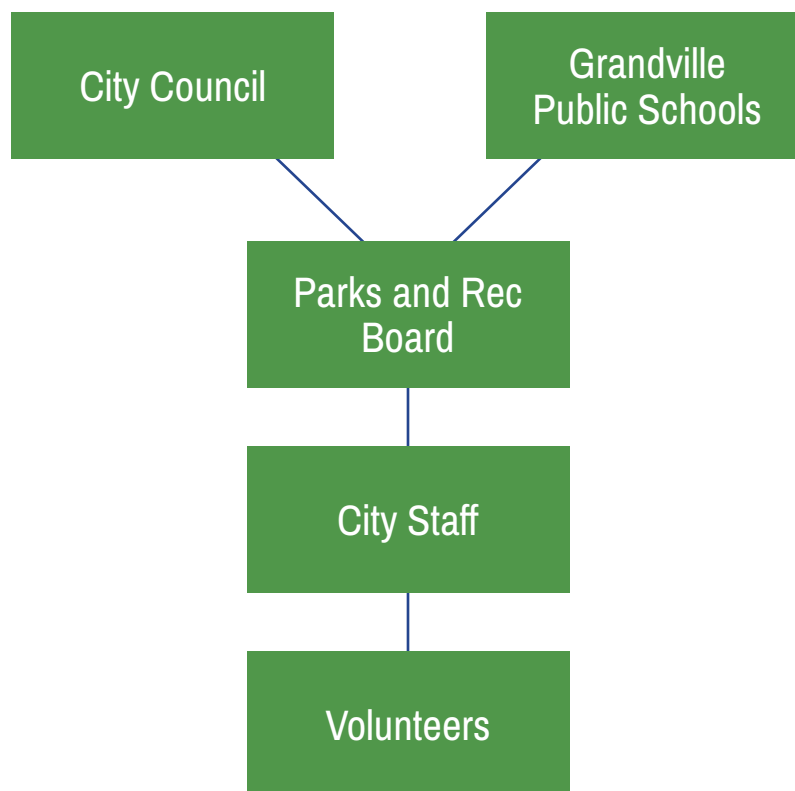
The Plan was adopted at a regular meeting of the Grandville City Council on DATE.

# Administrative Structure and Funding

## ADMINISTRATION

The Grandville Parks and Recreation Board is a joint entity of the City of Grandville and Grandville Public Schools. The Board works to ensure that the Grandville community has high-quality, well-maintained park spaces for all residents to enjoy.

Figure 6: Grandville Administrative Structure for Parks and Recreation



## VOLUNTEERS

As is common in smaller communities, the City relies heavily on volunteers in order to maintain a quality parks and recreation system. Volunteer citizens often assist with the planning and organization of community-wide events and festivals held within the parks. Volunteers also assist with maintenance, although the city is actively seeking additional volunteers for these tasks to reduce the burden on city maintenance employees.

## PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING

The table below summarizes the Grandville parks and recreation budget from 2014-15 through 2019-2020.

**Table 11: Parks and Recreation Budget and Expenditures, 2014-2020**

FISCAL YEAR	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES
2014-15	\$397,086	\$367,029
2015-16	\$353,421	\$391,492
2016-17	\$414,407	\$429,438
2017-18	\$450,965	\$414,171
2018-19	\$494,453	\$435,112
2019-20*	\$526,582	Current Year

Source: Grandville, 2019

\*Current fiscal year

## FUNDING SOURCES

The operating budget for the Parks and Recreation Department is annually adopted by the City Council. The primary source of revenue to the Park budget is the City's general fund. Grandville also actively explores alternative financing for additional capital improvements through grant programs and private donations.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The City currently partners with the Community Education office of Grandville Public Schools to offer a wide variety of recreation and sports programs to area youth during the summer months, including several activities located at various City parks.



## PARKS AND RECREATION MDNR GRANT HISTORY

Table 12: MDNR Grant History

PARK	GRANT NUMBER	YEAR OF APPLICATION	SCOPE ITEMS / DESCRIPTION
Wedgwood Park	26-00237	1971	Acquisition of 9.27 acres of land
	26-003300	1972	Develop sewer and water system, fencing, roads, parking, lighted softball field, football field, and shelter
	BF91-336	1991	Develop 5 horseshoe courts, fencing, shelter structure, electrical service, site lighting, and landscaping
Heritage Park	26-01371	1985	Develop play equipment, 2 picnic areas and equipment, signage, bridges, entrance drive and parking, walkway, lighting, and stone trail
	26-01455	1986	Develop concrete walk, stone trail, benches, viewing shelter, lighted basketball court, boardwalk with floating pier, lighting, fence/gates, and landscaping
Calvin Crest Park	26-01002	1978	Acquisition of 9 acres (entire park), develop 6 tennis courts, softball field, nature trails, and footbridges
	BF89-603	1989	Develop basketball court and landscaping
Mill Race Park	TF87-187	1987	Acquisition of 22 acres with 1,400 feet of frontage on Buck Creek
Grandville and Kent Trail Pathway Connections	07-100	2007	Development of a pathway to connect the Kent Trail Extension to Buck Creek Trail
Kent Trails	01-179	2001	Development of extension of Kent Trail System along the Grand River





A



# Appendix



# **MDNR Checklist**

## **Notice of Availability of Draft Plan**

## **Public Hearing Notice**

# **Public Hearing Minutes**

## **PCSC Reports**





Planning Consultants:



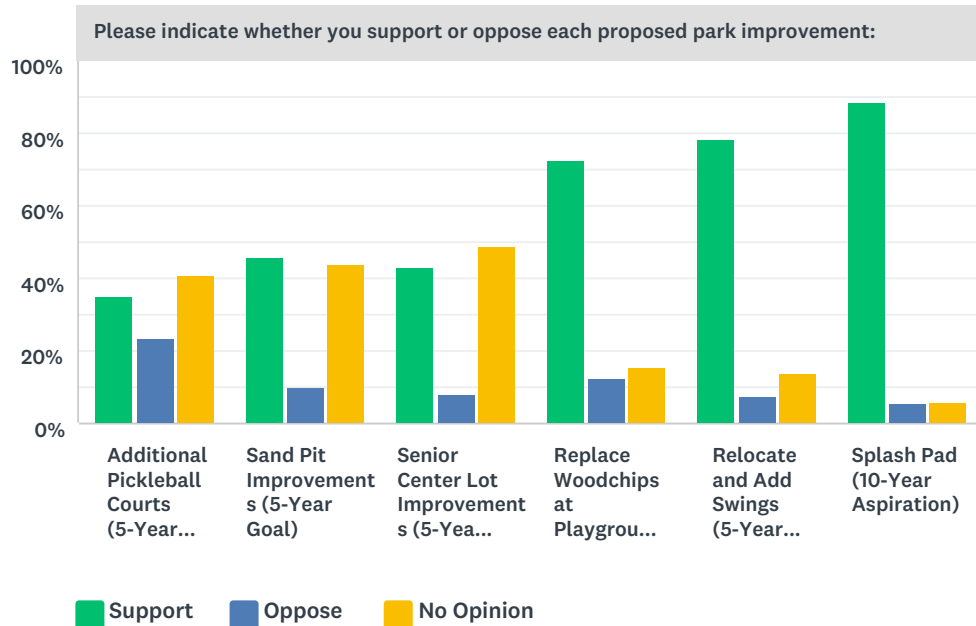
235 E. Main Street, Suite 105  
Northville, MI 48167  
T: 248.596.0920  
F: 248.596.0930  
[www.mcka.com](http://www.mcka.com)

John Jackson, AICP ..... President  
Christopher Khorey, AICP..... Project Manager  
Jennifer Neal ..... Project Planner  
Aislinn Droski..... Project Planner  
Carrie Leitner..... Art Director  
Erin Raine..... Graphic Designer



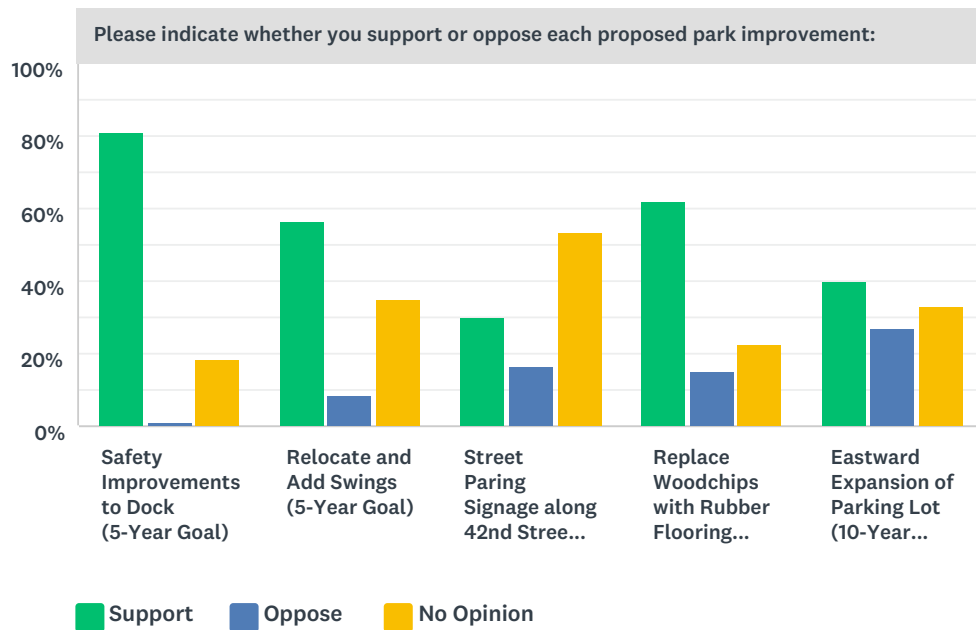
## Q1 Wedgwood Park Action Plan

Answered: 134 Skipped: 1



## Q2 Heritage Park Action Plan

Answered: 121 Skipped: 14

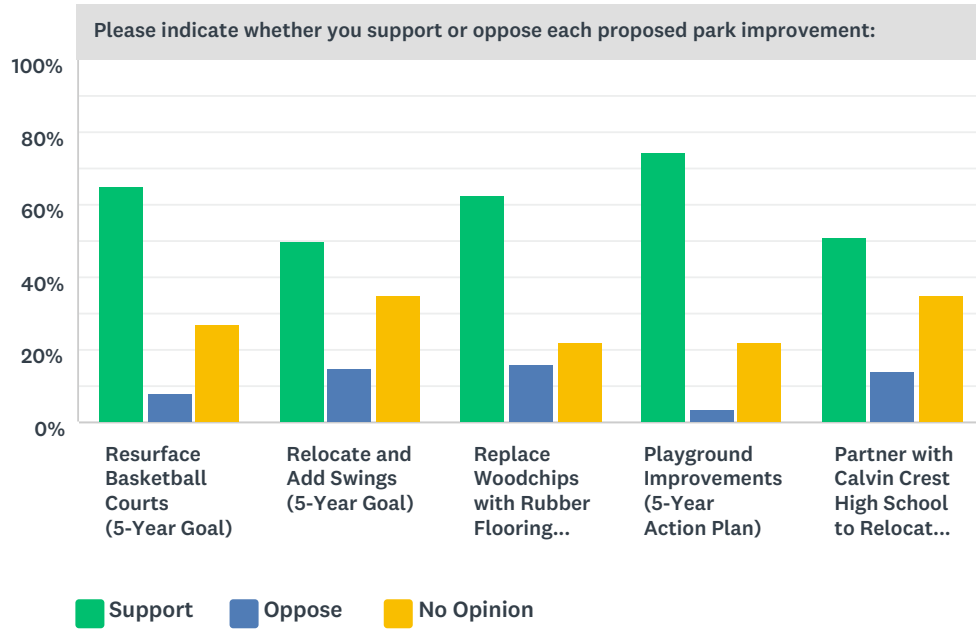


## Q3 Calvin Crest Park Action Plan

Answered: 115 Skipped: 20

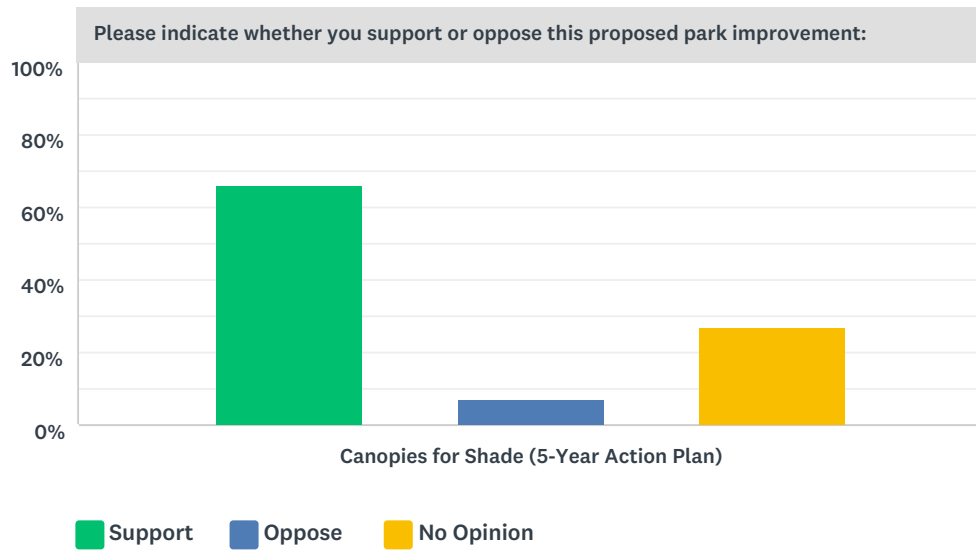


## Grandville Parks Action Plans



## Q4 Lee Street Park Action Plan

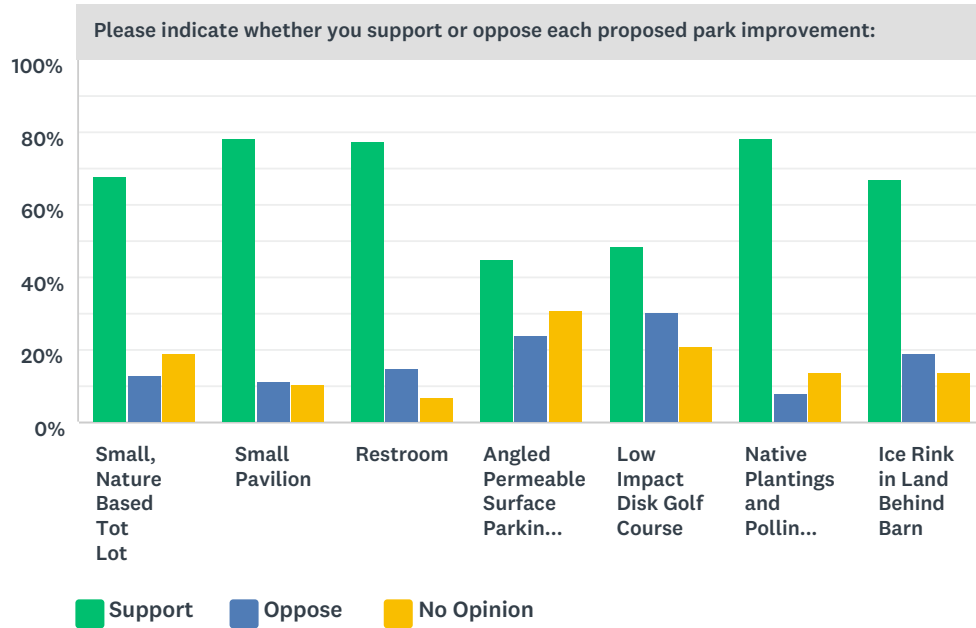
Answered: 115 Skipped: 20



## Q5 Mill Race Park Action Plan

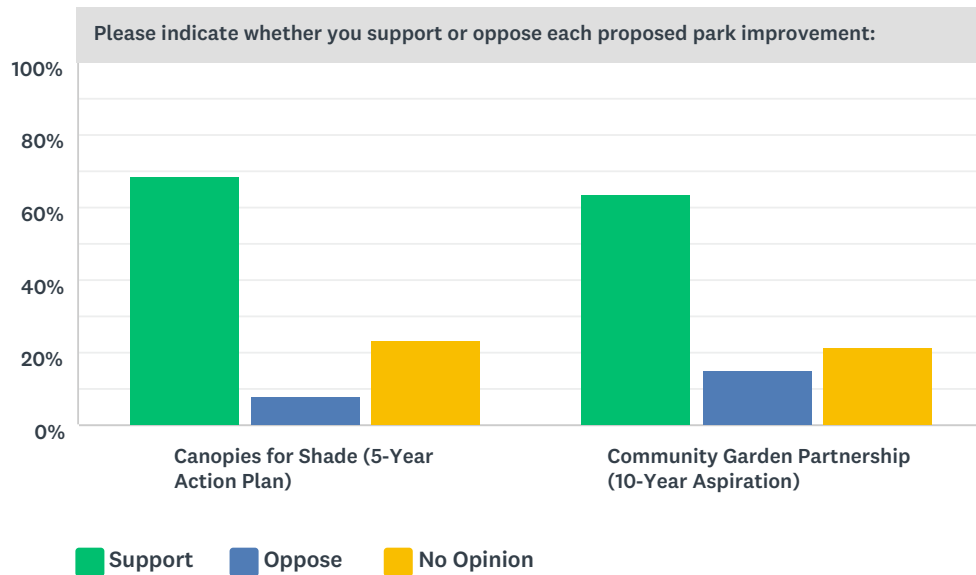
Answered: 118 Skipped: 17

## Grandville Parks Action Plans



## Q6 Peck Street Park Action Plan

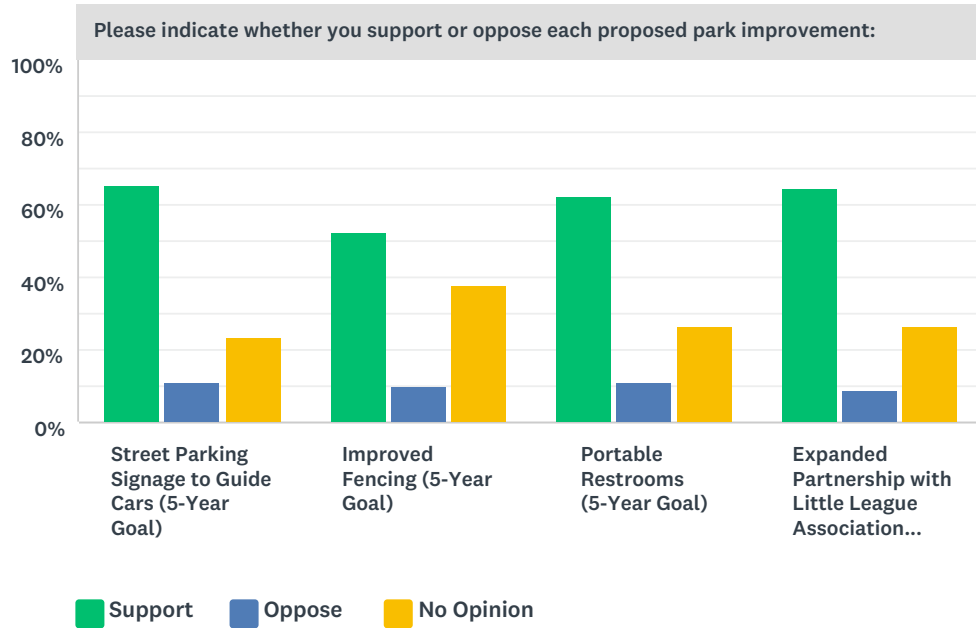
Answered: 115 Skipped: 20



## Q7 Little League Baseball Complex Action Plan

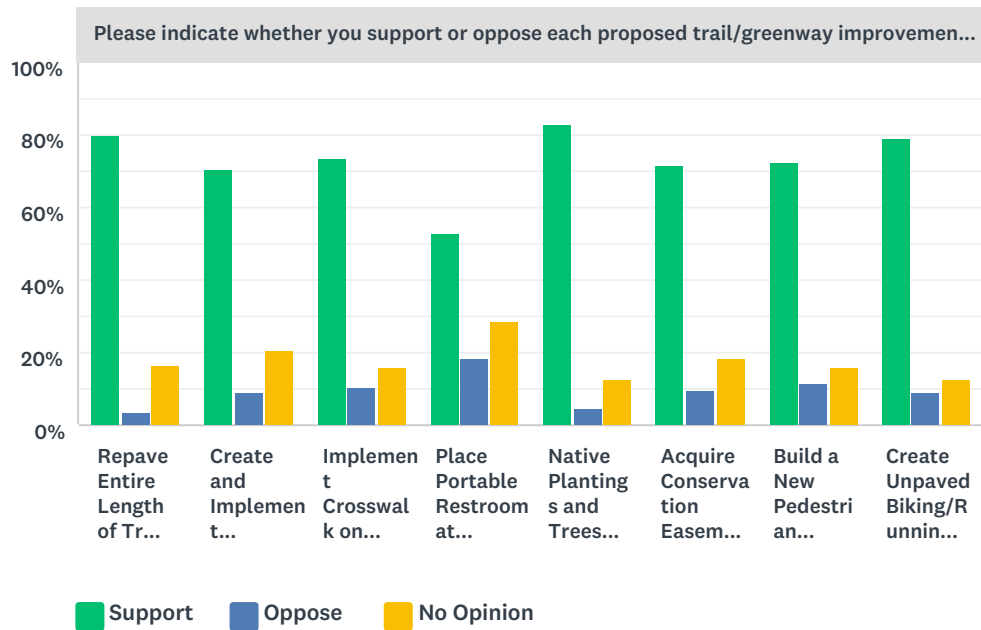
Answered: 111 Skipped: 24

## Grandville Parks Action Plans



## Q8 Buck Creek Trail/Greenway Action Plan

Answered: 116 Skipped: 19

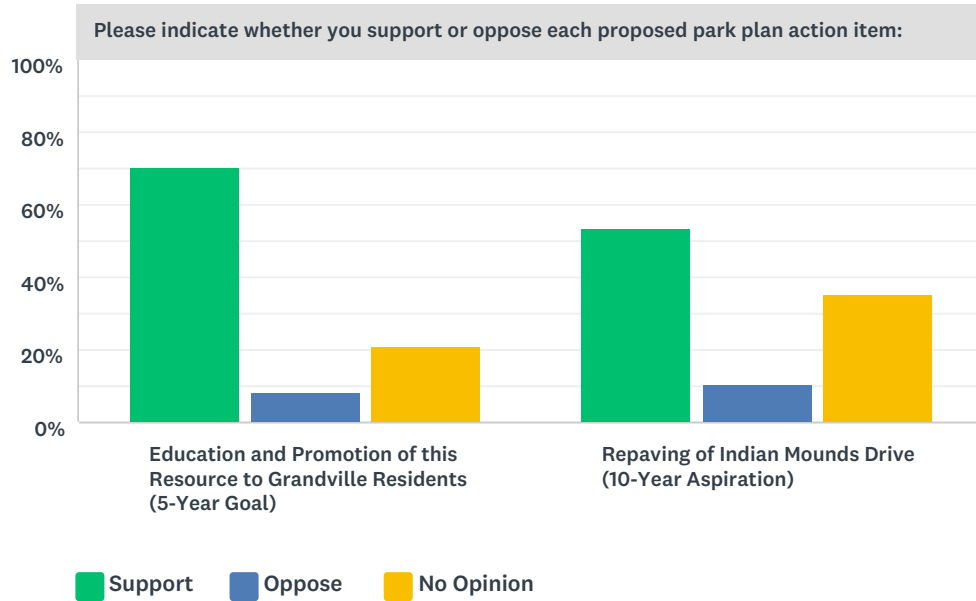


## Q9 Grand River Waterfront Action Plan

Answered: 112 Skipped: 23

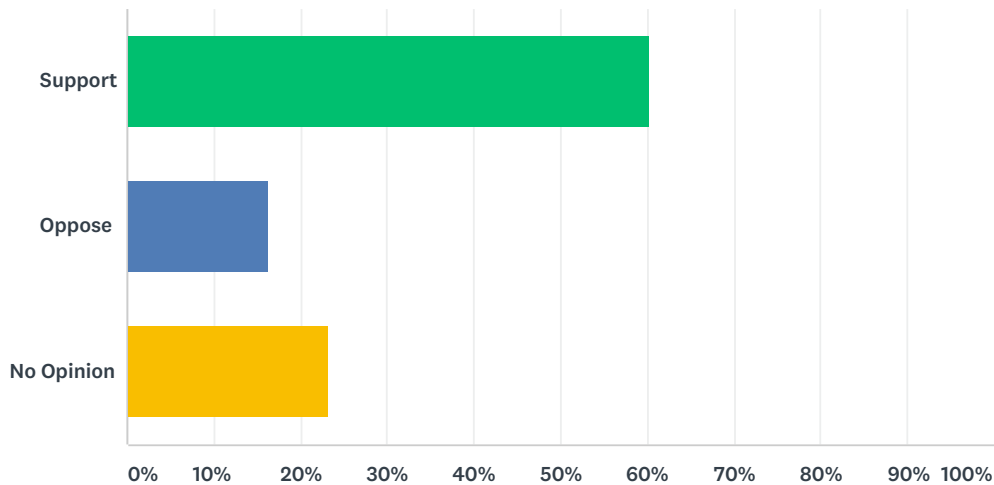


## Grandville Parks Action Plans



Q10 Please indicate whether you support or oppose the plan for the placement of a dog park at the Water Tower property:

Answered: 116 Skipped: 19



Q11 Any last thoughts?

Answered: 38 Skipped: 97